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Larkin I. Smith

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
MISSISSIPPI

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES
DELIVERED IN CONGRESS

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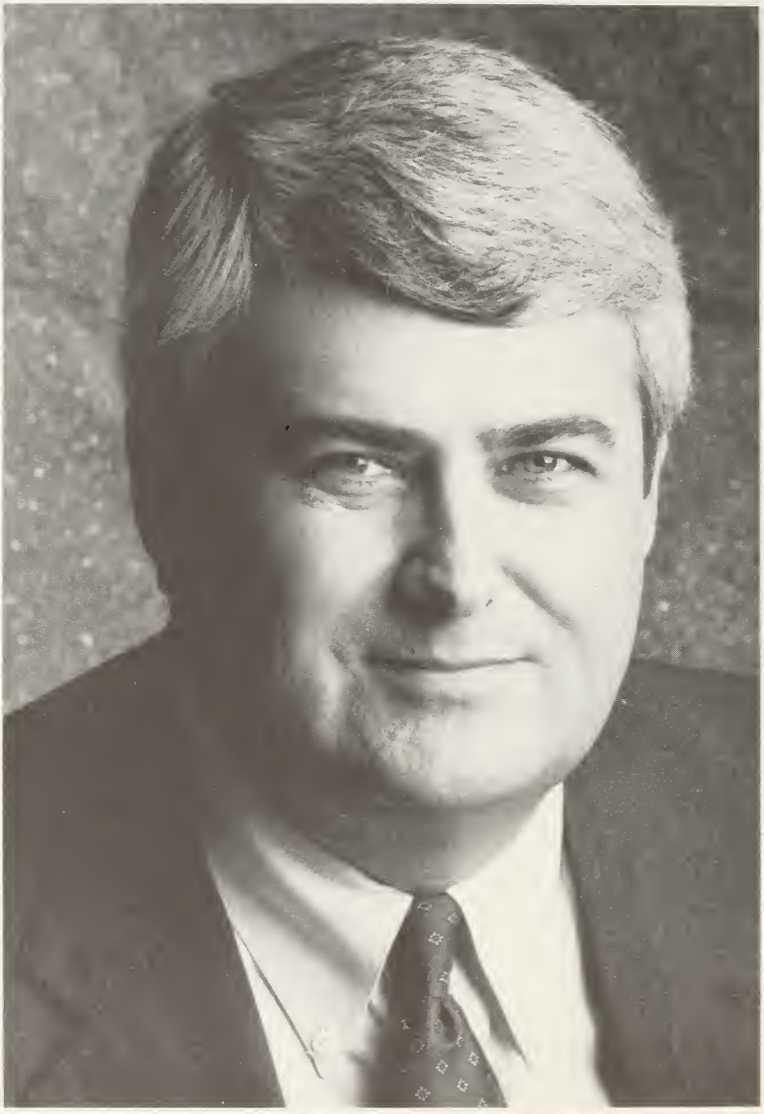

Memorial Services

Held in the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States
together with tributes presented in eulogy of

Larkin I. Smith

Late a Representative from Mississippi

One Hundred First Congress
First Session

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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Biography

LARKIN I. SMITH, a Representative from Missippi; born in Poplarville, Pearl River County, Miss., June 26, 1944; attended Poplarville Elementary School; graduated, Poplarville High School, 1962; B.A., William Carey College, 1979; chief deputy sheriff, Pearl River County sheriff's department, 1966–72; chief investigator, Harrison County, Miss., sheriff's department, 1971–77; chief of police in Gulfport, Miss., from August 1977 to December 1983; sheriff of Harrison County, January 1, 1984, to January 1, 1989; elected as a Republican to the One Hundred First Congress and served from January 3, 1989, until his death August 13, 1989, in a private aircraft crash in the DeSoto National Forest, Miss., while en route from Hattiesburg to Gulfport.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

FOR

LARKIN I. SMITH

Proceedings in the House

WEDNESDAY, *September 6, 1989.*

The House met at 12 noon.

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We remember, O gracious God, those who seek to serve You by serving others. On this day we specially recall those who labor in this place seeking to bring a measure of justice and mercy and peace to our troubled world.

We remember with gratitude the lives of Mickey Leland and LARKIN SMITH, their efforts to provide for other people the necessities and the opportunities of life. May we celebrate their dedication by doing the works of mercy wherever we are and by continuing the work they sought to do.

May Your blessing, O loving God, be with their families and friends, with all who mourn, and may Your spirit encourage us to do justice, love, mercy, and ever walk humbly with You. Amen.

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise for our side of the aisle to say that during the break we lost two colleagues, both in the pursuit of their duty, both seeking to serve mankind, and that all Members will remember the gentleman from Texas [Mr. Leland] and the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. SMITH] and that we appreciate very much the leadership taking this moment to begin the session by recognizing these two very fine colleagues and Members whose memories will live on for a very long time in this body.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members, with heavy hearts and bowed heads, let Members remember the service and contributions of the gentleman from Texas [Mr. Leland] and the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. SMITH] with a moment of silence, and ask on behalf of both parties and all Americans, that we stand and have this moment of silence.

(A moment of silence was observed.)

Mr. HUBBARD. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to our beloved colleagues Mickey Leland and LARKIN SMITH. Mickey Leland was headed toward a leadership role here in the U.S. House of Representatives when his life was cut short at 44.

LARKIN SMITH served only 7 months in Congress, but it was clear to all of us that Trent Lott's successor was definitely marked for prominence here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The best monument to Mickey Leland would be legislation from this Congress to help eliminate poverty, disease and famine worldwide.

The best monument to LARKIN SMITH would be legislation from this Congress to help wipe out the serious drug problem.

It was the sight of an Ethiopian girl dying before his eyes that moved Mickey Leland to work against hunger.

It was the sight of Mississippi teenagers hooked on drugs that caused then-Sheriff LARKIN SMITH to work against drugs in southern Mississippi.

Let's work to keep their causes alive.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, last night as I watched President Bush's drug speech on television, I could not help but think of my friend and fellow freshman fellow classmate, LARKIN SMITH. He was as ardent a champion of a drug-free America as ever served in this House. The discovery just a few weeks ago that he died in a crash in a Mississippi forest, of course stunned us all. But none are more saddened than we, his freshmen classmates. We share the memory of a man who all of us looked up to. LARKIN was before his election to Congress a Mississippi county sheriff who had spent 23 years in law enforcement. He was a man with strong beliefs, and the will to fight for these beliefs, particularly when it came to the war on drugs. As one of a handful of Congressmen with real experience in fighting a war on drugs, Sheriff SMITH saw the roadblocks in this Congress, and in a series of 28 speeches on this floor he pointed out how more than 80 committees, subcommittees, and task forces claim jurisdiction over the war on drugs.

The best thing that we can do in his memory is to eliminate that maze, to consolidate that oversight function, and to begin once and for all to fight a real war on drugs.

I would like just briefly to quote his admonition to this Congress:

I urge my fellow soldiers not to grow weary, but to put on the full armor of battle. If we are serious about the scourge of drugs and crime in our Nation, we would be advised to adopt General MacArthur's admonition to Congress in 1951, when he stated: "In war, there is no substitute for victory."

Those were the words of LARKIN SMITH and they loom even larger in his death. Let us do justice to them.

Mr. WHITTEN. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 232) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 232

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable LARKIN I. SMITH, a Representative from the State of Mississippi.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

Mr. WHITTEN. Mr. Speaker, LARKIN and I were last together at Mississippi State University, only a short time before his death, where we joined with our colleagues in paying tribute to Senator John Stennis.

Although he had only a brief 7 months to serve in the House, LARKIN had made an impact in several areas. We had worked together on several projects of interest to the people of his district and the State.

With a background in law enforcement, Congressman SMITH brought to the House an expertise in law enforcement which served him in good stead in the war on drugs.

Although his congressional career was short, LARKIN had a long and dedicated career in public service, starting as a deputy sheriff in 1966 and working his way up to chief of police and then sheriff on the Mississippi gulf coast.

A product of the gulf coast, LARKIN was born in Poplarville, MS, went to school there and graduated from William Carey College in Gulfport. Working for more than 20 years in the field, he gained the respect of law enforcement officers throughout the coast region and the State.

To LARKIN's wife, and his family, we extend our greatest sympathies in their loss. We have lost a valued Member.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that there will be a memorial service today at 6:30 at the St. Peter's Catholic Church which is at 2d and C Streets, about three blocks from the Capitol, in memory of LARKIN SMITH.

Mr. MICHEL. Mr. Speaker, I regret that earlier in the day when there was a moment of silence given in eulogy to our late departed friends, LARKIN SMITH and Mickey Leland, that I was unavoidably called from the floor of the House.

As was indicated by the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. Montgomery] there will be a memorial service for LARKIN at 6:30 this evening.

Both the gentleman from Mississippi and I were privileged to be present at the funeral itself during the recess. I do not know that I have attended any larger funeral for a Member of Congress than I did the one for the gentleman from Mississippi, LARKIN SMITH.

It was held in the Civic Center in Biloxi. The entire arena was encircled with floral memorabilia from Members and loved ones from around the country. There were visitors from neighboring States in the law enforcement area.

LARKIN was indeed, in his relatively short period of time in this House, the possessor of an outstanding record. It is not always longevity that counts in the House but rather the quality of one's service.

LARKIN certainly demeanored himself beautifully as he served in this body. And those who still serve in this body regret very much that we are not going to be able to continue that valued service.

Mr. NIELSON of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on Representative LARKIN SMITH. I did not notice in the press any comment about his activity on the Committee on Government Operations. As a freshman he became a ranking member on the Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee, which is a fine achievement for a freshman Representative.

We liked him very much on that committee. I just wanted to add that to the Record.

Mr. WHITTEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of August 4, 1989, empowering the Speaker to appoint commissions, boards, and committees authorized by law or

by the House, the Speaker did on August 16, 1989, appoint the following Members to attend the funeral of the late Honorable LARKIN I. SMITH:

Mr. Whitten of Mississippi; Mr. Michel of Illinois; Mr. Gingrich of Georgia; Mr. Montgomery of Mississippi; Mr. Espy of Mississippi; Mr. Parker of Mississippi; Mr. Hughes of New Jersey; Mr. Edwards of Oklahoma; Mr. Weiss of New York; Mr. Gunderson of Wisconsin; Mr. Donald E. "Buz" Lukens of Ohio; Mr. Gallegly of California; Mr. Cox of California; Mr. Douglas of New Hampshire; Mr. Goss of Florida; Mr. James of Florida; Mr. Laughlin of Texas; Mr. McNulty of New York; Mr. Schiff of New Mexico; Mr. Smith of Vermont; and Mr. Sterns of Florida.

Mr. PARKER. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), pursuant to House Resolutions 232 and 233, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 7, 1989, at 10 a.m. in memory of the late Honorable LARKIN SMITH and the late Honorable Mickey Leland.

WEDNESDAY, *September 13, 1989.*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to be here this morning. This is a presentation that would have been given by my late colleague, LARKIN SMITH of Mississippi. Before his untimely death he had embarked on a series of 1 minute presentations to point out, with his career background in law enforcement, that the Congress, in establishing the drug czar program to coordinate all of our efforts against the war against crime and drugs, should, first, coordinate itself. That dozens of committees and subcommittees had jurisdiction over the War on Drug Program.

In fact, in my last presentation on the House floor just before our recess for the district work period, since I have a background in law enforcement, I commended Representative SMITH on making these presentations and bringing this matter to the attention of the Congress. Since Congressman SMITH cannot complete the presentations himself, because of his tragic death, those Members who were elected with him in the freshman class intend to complete the presentations for him. I want to bring to the attention of the House that the Science, Space, and Technology Committee is one more

committee that has jurisdiction potentially over the war on drugs because, among other things, science and technology is involved in surveillance equipment, as one example.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, it was a month ago today that LARKIN SMITH lost his life in an aircraft tragedy, and the date was August 13. I happened to be with LARKIN SMITH that night at a baseball ceremony for the Dixie Youth Baseball in Hattiesburg, MS. We talked about the sadness of Mickey Leland, that he had been lost several days before, and I happened to mention to LARKIN that I wanted him to be careful and that we, all Members, should be more careful when we traveled, and when we traveled that we should not drive too fast on the two-lane highways, and we should be careful in flying by not taking unnecessary chances. I told him that the people at the other end understood if we did not get there on time or if we did not make it at all. He laughed. He nodded. However, Mr. Speaker, he made no comments.

Last week a memorial service was held for LARKIN here on Capitol Hill, and the church was filled with Members, staff, and friends, who were there to pay respects to one of the truly bright rising stars in this House of Representatives.

I was honored that his wife, Sheila, gave me the opportunity to speak at the memorial service. I feel a great personal loss because LARKIN was my friend. We feel a great loss in the Mississippi delegation as well.

LARKIN was an easy person to like. He had such a wonderful laugh that could win you over to his side of the argument.

LARKIN was a Member of Congress for only 7 months, but he was making a difference. He brought a unique experience to this House.

He was former policeman. He was a sheriff. He knew firsthand about the drug problem and he had some definite ideas on how to improve the way that we are fighting the drug war.

I went to the funeral on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, I might point out, Mr. Speaker, over 22 Members of this House were there, including the Minority Leader, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. Michel] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. Weiss]. Bob Michel served on his subcommittee and LARKIN SMITH also served on that subcommittee. He came the longest distance and it was a problem for those 22 Members in that the House was not in session and they had

to get their own means of transportation to get to that funeral, so it was certainly appreciated by Sheila and the family and by Members of the Mississippi Congressional delegation, that the 22 Members would come to the Mississippi Coast and pay their respects for LARKIN.

We were all impressed by the number of police officers and law enforcement officers who were there to honor LARKIN SMITH, one of their own. They were devastated by the loss of this great person. They saw in LARKIN that as a law enforcement officer, as a policeman on the street, that you can move out in this country, that you can get to higher planes if you so desire. LARKIN had proven to them that you can move in high public official positions. When LARKIN went down, they were just devastated.

He was unique in that he sought a seat on the Judiciary Committee and became the first non-lawyer in the Judiciary Committee. He really offered a lot to that committee, as well as to this House, because he had been on the streets fighting drugs.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss our friend, but we will have the wonderful memories of his work and as a Member of this body. He will mainly be missed for his warm friendship that he made with a number of us in the short 7 months that he was here.

Mr. MICHEL. Mr. Speaker, we often refer to the House of Representatives as a microcosm of the country, drawing men and women from all walks of life to serve. Unfortunately as it is in life, so it is in death.

When one has served as long as I have, we're all too frequently called upon to experience the grief and sorrow of losing a dear friend. And in most cases, one whom we might never have come to know were it not for the nature of our job.

I believe it's worth noting that at least to this Member, we've lost an inordinate number of our colleagues over the years to plane accidents and I suspect it's because we do take chances in our efforts to cover as much ground in as little time as possible.

Such was the case with LARKIN SMITH and yes with Mickey Leland too. We owe it to their memory to at least take heed. And even then, we have no assurances of what God's plan may be for us.

Because the Congress was in recess there were many of LARKIN's colleagues who could not attend the funeral, but

there were a number of us from both sides of the aisle who were there, and it was a beautiful service.

It had to be one of the largest funerals I've attended, held as it was in the Civic Center of Biloxi. Floral remembrances completely encircled the arena.

In addition to the outpouring of Mississippi citizens, there were a host of law enforcement officials who came from neighboring States to pay their respects.

There was no question but that LARKIN was most popular, loved, and well respected with the home folks.

For those of us who attended from afar, we learned that the professional law man and legislator we had come to know in Washington, was so much more as a citizen and family man at home.

He came to us with personal integrity, a moral vision, and a friendly, warm personality.

As Republican leader, I watched with pride as LARKIN SMITH moved into his congressional responsibilities with the ease and grace of one to the manner born.

I watched in admiration as he took the floor for a series of 1-minute speeches, outlining in detail the twisting path that antidrug legislation has to take through a maze of committees.

He knew we needed a better system if we were going to seriously fight drugs. He informed us with the facts and persuaded us with his sincerity.

It is given to very few of us to make such a good impression in such a short time. His leaving us so suddenly, so tragically, makes his loss the harder to bear.

When we think of his potential, of the esteem in which he was held, of the great promise for his future, we can only recall the words of the poet:

> For of all sad words of tongue or pen;
> The saddest are these:
> It might have been!

And yet I believe we are wrong if we think the gifts he brought to us are gone.

I believe his personal strength, his vision, his love of family, his country, his State, and his district left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Today, we honor his memory. But it is more important to remember he honored us with his friendship and graced the institution of the House with his fine work.

The true mark of a good legislator is the quality of the work he does, not the quantity of years he serves.

By that standard LARKIN achieved a level of excellence that any congressional veteran would envy. It is his legacy to us.

We certainly are going to miss him and our unbounded sympathy goes out to Sheila, Tracy, the other members of the family, and to LARKIN's staff.

Mr. PARKER. Mr. Speaker, it was indeed an honor to take part in the memorial service for LARKIN.

There are few times in a person's life when one is able to meet and know someone who is special simply because he understands. LARKIN SMITH was just such a friend. LARKIN understood there was a distinct difference between the past, the present, and the future. He understood that life is ever-changing. That life is dynamic. That life is always in turmoil because time brings change and change brings turmoil. However, he also understood that there are constants. He understood that the more the world changed—the more we, as a society, needed those constants.

He understood, to a large degree, because he remembered. He remembered when there was a time when children needed stability; he remembered when our young needed parameters and needed to be assured that life is not all uncertainty. He knew that some things are permanent and you can count on them. He remembered when a handshake was a contract that no one would break—he remembered when being faithful to your word was more important than any gain you could ever imagine. He remembered when wealth was only important if you could do good for your fellow man. He remembered and knew that for every right an individual enjoys, there is a corresponding responsibility. He remembered when a man was a man and acted as a man and accepted responsibility as a man because it was his duty. He remembered a time when an individual would be punished if he committed a wrong. He remembered a society which felt a person should receive that punishment. He remembered a time when being a good, decent person was a goal that was self-initiated, rather than some perception-oriented facade that you hired ad agencies to create—yes, LARKIN SMITH was special.

There are many trees in the forest. Some are tall, some are short, some are weak, some are strong. All of them are important. Occasionally, you find a large, healthy tree—a tree whose shade spreads out and gives protection to all who

are under its limbs. There is a peace in that place—a peace that one enjoys and recalls with contentment.

LARKIN SMITH was just such a tree. His influence touched and protected many people. His branches were massive. His shade was unbounded.

Suddenly, that large tree has now fallen. The opening that is left is much larger than we thought. The full extent of his branches, we never quite comprehended. Now, when we look at the forest, we know that it is forever changed and we are sad.

But, the good news is that there are young, healthy saplings underneath. They are many. They are strong. They are not as large, but they are healthy. They have been nurtured and protected by those massive branches. They now must and, I believe they are ready, to grow on their own. We thank LARKIN SMITH, for what he gave. He gave when we didn't even know we were taking. His influence will be felt for good throughout our lives. For that, we will always be grateful.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, last month was a painful reminder that in life there is death, in death there is sorrow, and in sorrow there are memories—some very fond, special memories.

The news spread rather quickly that Congressman LARKIN SMITH of Mississippi had been involved in a tragic airplane crash on Sunday evening, August 13.

The first reports were simply that LARKIN's plane was missing. Early indications were that a plane had gone down but there was no evidence of a fire or explosion. Everyone wanted to believe that LARKIN was going to be OK.

But, unfortunately, our hopes were dashed when the numbing news came on Monday morning that, in fact, LARKIN's plane had crashed and there were no survivors.

Coming so soon on the heels of the tragedy involving another colleague, Congressman Mickey Leland, of Texas, the news of LARKIN SMITH's death was almost too hard to believe.

LARKIN's district in Mississippi is a lot like mine in Alabama. In fact, the two districts border each other, and as a result of many mutual interests, we had become good friends during his short time here in Congress. You could say we were like next-door neighbors.

But much of the LARKIN SMITH story predates his days here on Capitol Hill. You see LARKIN was first and foremost

an officer of the law. That's where he got his start, and by his own admission, that was his first love.

And from all accounts, LARKIN must have been a darn good lawman. In fact, I would go so far as saying that LARKIN SMITH was probably one of the finest men to ever wear a badge.

As a young boy looking toward the future, LARKIN wanted to be a FBI agent when he grew up. Unfortunately, financial hardships at home as well as an accident that left his brother paralyzed delayed his career in law enforcement. And although he never became that FBI agent he had always dreamed of being, to suggest he was anything but a winner would be a serious mistake.

LARKIN SMITH devoted 23 years of his life to law enforcement. He climbed to the rank of police chief for the city of Gulfport and was later elected sheriff of Harrison County and this background provided a tremendous foundation to what would almost certainly have become a brilliant career in Congress.

He was elected to Congress just last November, replacing Trent Lott who moved over to the U.S. Senate, and he came to Washington with a smile on his face as broad as the Mississippi River itself. In fact, some of his friends joked that this was the real Mr. SMITH who was finally coming to Washington, referring to the 1939 movie starring Jimmy Stewart.

LARKIN loved living and was having the time of his life here in his new surroundings, the U.S. House of Representatives. But LARKIN SMITH was no actor.

He was a sincere, genuine, and devoted man of the highest integrity and principles. He stood for what was right in America and when LARKIN SMITH gave you his word about something, you knew you could go to the bank on his promise.

In just 7 short months, he had quickly earned the respect of his peers on both sides of the political aisle. In fact, he was the only nonattorney to sit on the prestigious Judiciary Committee and in addition, he was one of only two Republicans named by the Speaker to serve on the National Advisory Commission on Law Enforcement.

During his days in Washington, Congressman LARKIN SMITH was already making a name for himself as a leading advocate of stronger anticrime and related antidrug efforts. He knew from firsthand experience how to successfully wage

a war on drugs and his insight in this area would have been most beneficial to our Nation had he lived.

As some of you may know, I appear on a television show each Sunday morning when Congress is in session, reporting back to the residents of my district. Joining me on the program is my friend Congressman Earl Hutto, and since he was sworn into office in January, LARKIN SMITH.

I will never forget the first TV show that we taped early in the new year. LARKIN was making his initial appearance and just like I had been a few years before, he was as stiff as a board—uncomfortable with the bright lights, the microphones, and the cameras that zoom right up in your face.

But in no time LARKIN had turned into a pro, taking his turn hosting the show and grasping the issues of the day as though they had been the better part of his life. He was a rising star on the political horizon and was well suited to become a real leader, both in the Republican party and for our Nation as well.

LARKIN SMITH's last official act before his plane crashed was throwing out the first ball at a Little League baseball tournament in Hattiesburg, MS. He was truly an all-American.

Naturally, those of us who knew LARKIN are going to miss him the most. He is survived by his widow, Sheila, his daughter Tracy, and his grandson, Bryce Anthony. They are a fine family and have suffered a tremendous loss. No words of condolences or expression of sympathy can truly help ease their pain or fill their void right now.

Mr. Speaker, this special order is most appropriate, for indeed, LARKIN SMITH made his mark here in Congress. But I think one of the most fitting tributes to LARKIN was a small arrangement of flowers that was delivered to his funeral. For the record, those flowers were sent by a group of inmates LARKIN SMITH had put in jail back when he was sheriff. Those prisoners just wanted LARKIN's family to know that they, too, had lost a man they respected.

LARKIN SMITH was a good man. He was my friend. And we are all better people because of him.

Mr. WEISS. Mr. Speaker, in the few months that LARKIN SMITH was in the U.S. Congress, I did come to know him as a man of sincere conviction and remarkable dedication to the service of his constituents and to his country.

His reasoned advocacy and warmth will be missed by all of us.

I had the privilege, as the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. Montgomery] says, of serving with LARKIN on the Committee on Government Operations and worked closely with him in his role as ranking minority member on the Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations, which I have the privilege of chairing.

Even though we sometimes had different positions on the matters before the committee, LARKIN was an exceptionally sophisticated freshman member, especially in his ability and willingness to work with varying points of view. I came quickly to respect him, and it was evident that he would be one of the new rising stars in the House.

The Committee on Government Operations, as my colleagues know, is an oversight committee, and what was most impressive about LARKIN SMITH, brand new to the Congress of the United States, not having been in a legislative body before, was his ability to grasp almost instinctively that that committee really was not a committee addressing issues from a partisan point of view but from an institutional point of view, and from the very beginning, although we may have had policy differences, there was never any question of his support of the work of the committee and of the work of the subcommittee.

When we had issues relating to matters of health and welfare and scientific research, which was benefiting supposedly competitiveness of American industry but in fact was benefiting the competitiveness of international companies which were not focused on the United States, he quickly understood the institutional role that we were playing on that committee.

As is too often the case, it was not until LARKIN died that I learned much about his distinguished career as a chief law enforcement officer and county sheriff and his long-time crusade against corruption and illegal drugs. As I sat with my wife among his many colleagues who attended his funeral in Mississippi last month, I was genuinely touched by the character of this man as it was seen by his friends and family and members of his community, this man who had left public school at an early age in order to care for others in his family but who nevertheless had the perseverance to continue on and complete his college education at age 35.

One need only meet and listen to LARKIN's wife, Sheila, to realize where he must have gained much of his strength. She gave one of the most remarkable and moving eulogies that I have ever had the privilege of hearing. She said in the

course of her comments that as difficult as it was to bear LARKIN's loss, she was consoled somewhat by the fact that she knew that those past 7 months with his service in Congress and the birth of his grandson were among the happiest months of LARKIN's life. He was obviously a hero to his family and to his community.

Mr. Speaker, I know that many Members had not really had enough opportunity to know LARKIN SMITH as well as they would have liked. I feel fortunate to know that I had that opportunity, and I certainly came to respect and like what I did know.

He will be missed in my subcommittee and in the Congress and, of course, especially in his community and by his family.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his comments on LARKIN SMITH and for his comments on Sheila Smith. I was, like the gentleman, very, very impressed with the remarks at the funeral and also at the memorial service up here. She is a strong person. She is working with this sadness in her own way, and I agree with her; she says that LARKIN is in heaven, and that is where he belongs, and he is looking down at us tonight.

Mr. WEISS. They were a remarkable couple.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, This has been a very sad time in this Congress having lost two of our great statesmen, and it does make one recognize the fragility of life and the need for remembering the inspiration that they have given to us.

Mr. Speaker, even as a freshman Member of Congress, LARKIN SMITH was able to have a profound effect on this body. As a sheriff of Harrison County in his native Mississippi, LARKIN pursued his dedication to the promotion of law enforcement activities and the protection of individual rights. When he arrived in Washington, LARKIN sought to continue his efforts in this area, through his involvement to eradicate the scourge of drugs across our country.

I first had a chance to meet LARKIN upon his arrival to Congress during the freshman orientation. I was impressed by his desire to serve from the very first. Unfortunately, I only had the privilege of serving with him for 7 short months. Yet, in his short term in the House, LARKIN was able to make many friends on both sides of the political aisle and was known for his thoughtfulness and reasonableness on many of the difficult issues which confront us as legislators.

His enthusiasm was clear and his commitment to serve the people of the Fifth District of Mississippi was evident. Tragically, it was that very same commitment that took LARKIN from us. At the time of the crash of his small-engine aircraft, he was returning to Gulfport from Hattiesburg, where he tossed out the first ball at a Little League baseball tournament.

Although his tenure in Washington was short, LARKIN had built up a great reservoir of goodwill and developed a deep sense of comaraderie within Congress. I, and my fellow colleagues, will miss him tremendously. We will remember his wife, Sheila, and his daughter Tracy, in our hearts and prayers.

Mr. HUTTO. Mr. Speaker, one of the great rewards of serving in Congress I believe is the friendships we gain here and being able to know people, to work with them. Very early in his tenure I was introduced to LARKIN SMITH, and has been alluded to by our colleague from Alabama, Sonny Callahan, we do a television program on channel 5 in Mobile, AL that reaches the district of all three of us. With the election of Trent Lott to the Senate we were wondering just who this person was who would be coming in to Congress and working with us on our congressional report television program.

Of course when LARKIN SMITH did come, both Sonny and I were delighted because he is an easy fellow to work with. He has that big kind of broad smile, and although he might have been a little slow starting, he is one who wants to do something methodically. He worked hard to come to grips with the many issues that we face here in Congress. So at the outcome LARKIN did not say a whole lot on our television program, but as we moved along from week to week one could see him gaining confidence, and with his knowledge that he had gained and was gaining on many of the issues, he was a very valued member of our television program.

So Members can imagine the shock I received when in the Soviet Union with our delegation from the House Armed Services Committee we first received word about the downing of the plane of our colleague from Texas, Mickey Leland, and then almost on the heels of that to hear about the fatal plane crash involving LARKIN SMITH. We were all deeply saddened.

LARKIN was one who had gained a lot of experience in law enforcement, as has been pointed out. He came up through the ranks. He worked hard.

He is the kind of person that we like to have making laws because he understood I believe the average person. He believed in a law and order society, and dedicated his life to law enforcement.

So he was a good addition to the Congress. We shall all miss him very much. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to his wife Sheila, his daughter Tracy, and his grandson Bryce. It was a great privilege and honor to serve with LARKIN SMITH, although it was all too short a time.

Mr. ESPY. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues as we express our sorrow and loss over the death of fellow Mississippian U.S. Representative LARKIN SMITH.

For just over 20 years, LARKIN SMITH, 45, dedicated his life to public service. As according to the Gospel of Matthew: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

While most of us in Washington knew LARKIN as a Congressman, he was best known in his Fifth Congressional District as a lawman. For 20 years, he wore a badge. He served as Gulfport chief of police from 1977 to 1983 and Harrison County sheriff from 1984 to 1988.

LARKIN SMITH, the sheriff, won credit for cleaning up an office haunted by scandals. At his funeral, officers from throughout Mississippi and surrounding States came to honor one of their own—he was going to represent them in Washington. Some inmates of the Harrison County Jail, sent flowers to his funeral, indicating he was respected even by those he disciplined.

He came to Washington in January and for about 8 months he faithfully represented his constituents living in southern Mississippi. As the robust freshman Congressman swiftly rushed to his meetings and appointments on the Hill, you knew he was a dedicated public servant.

Though we were of different parties, LARKIN SMITH and I were working together on issues to benefit Mississippi. We had just flown together while in Mississippi. We enjoyed discussing the diverse needs of our State. Though our districts have different needs, Mr. SMITH backed my rural development initiatives and my Mississippi Heritage Corridor Act. I supported his drug interdiction and anticrime package.

There is no doubt that LARKIN SMITH brought to Congress a solid law enforcement background, which is needed as we develop our antidrug legislation.

I am saddened by the loss of this fellow Mississippian, friend and Congressman. To his wife, Sheila, and daughter, Tracy, I offer my prayers.

Mr. HANCOCK. Mr. Speaker, as freshman Congressmen, LARKIN and I were in the same class. LARKIN's office was also just around the corner from mine. I had the opportunity to observe him at work. There is no question but that he was well on his way to greatness.

When I think of the type of people we need in the Congress today, LARKIN SMITH comes to mind as a perfect example.

He was an honest, decent, caring family man who well represented the common sense, conservative values of his constituents. He was a man of honor and integrity.

The legacy that LARKIN SMITH will leave with us, however, will be his unending and principled fight against illegal drugs. Both as a law enforcer and a lawmaker he dedicated himself to winning this war.

As has been mentioned, one of his most important efforts was to consolidate the bizarre maze of congressional committees claiming jurisdiction over the drug war.

LARKIN was tired of the publicity-seeking on this issue. He wanted action. That is why he championed Congressman Bill Paxon's bill to reform our oversight of the national drug crisis.

Perhaps one of the most fitting ways to pay tribute to him is to follow through on the cause that so moved him. We must continue the fight, even though we have lost a great ally and friend. In his name and memory, we must carry on.

Mr. HUBBARD. Indeed all of us in the House, as we were in different parts of the country, even beyond the country, some in Russia, during August were shocked to first hear about Mickey Leland's tragedy and the tragedy that befell so many with him on that plane in Ethiopia. It seems just a few days later that we heard then of the missing plane of LARKIN SMITH and they found the plane and they found the pilot and LARKIN SMITH both dead.

It is sobering for all of us in the House who travel frequently by plane to realize how uncertain life is and how dangerous it is for the flights we take. Only today my staff lined my wife Carol and me to fly up on Saturday, Septem-

ber 23, from Evansville, IN, to Fulton, KY, to Murray, KY, to Madisonville, KY, to Henderson, KY. We could not tell you right now who the pilots are or what kind of a plane it is that we are going to be headed toward that plane when we land in Evansville early Saturday morning on the 23d; the chances we take.

These two tragedies certainly caused us to be more careful and to realize that these both were killed in the service of their country, first Mickey Leland over in Ethiopia, and, yes, LARKIN SMITH, doing what so many of us do, going to most of the things we are invited to, trying to be of service.

He was there to pitch out the first ball of the Little League all-stars game in Hattiesburg, MS. That night following the game he got on a single-engine plane with one pilot and the plane crashed on his way to Gulfport, MS.

Yes, LARKIN SMITH served only 7 months in Congress. Obviously by the many who speak to his good life and service for our country this evening, he was well liked both by Republicans and Democrats. It was a joy for me to know him and to work with him during the 101st Congress.

To his wife Sheila, to his daughter Tracy, to his grandson Bryce and other members of the family, naturally, all of us extend to them our sympathy, our prayers and wish God's richest blessings on them all.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would say that knowing of LARKIN SMITH's devotion to law enforcement and the lessening of the crime problem and the vanishing of the drug problem, knowing of his outstanding service in southern Mississippi as the chief law enforcement officer and sheriff for his home county and knowing of his devotion to the problems of crime and drugs here in the House, the best monument that we can provide LARKIN SMITH would be for us to pass meaningful legislation this year, to see to it, as President Bush and others have urged us, to help wipe out this serious, serious problem of drugs which LARKIN SMITH spent so much of his time fighting.

May the memory of LARKIN SMITH always be that he was one of the pioneers who helped us in the House to realize that we need to do more to wipe out the drug problem in our country.

Mr. DUNCAN. I would like to briefly pay tribute to my friend and colleague LARKIN SMITH. I first met LARKIN SMITH when we attended a candidates school here in Wash-

ington in June of last year. He and I, I felt, hit it off right from the start.

We came from adjoining States, we came from somewhat similar backgrounds, with his in law enforcement and mine as a criminal court judge.

We got together again at the orientation for new Congressmen in December. After that we saw each other on an almost daily basis when the House was in session.

Our offices were on the same floor of the Cannon Building.

I counted LARKIN SMITH as one of my very best friends in Congress.

Everyone liked LARKIN SMITH. He was one of the finest men I ever knew and was well on his way to becoming a great Congressman and a true leader of this House.

My grandfather was a farmer and carpenter in Scott County, TN, and had his own Presbyterian church there. As I mentioned recently at the congressional prayer breakfast, he never missed a day at Sunday school or church for 63 years from the time he came back from the Spanish-American War until shortly before his death in 1961.

He knew the Bible backward and forward. One time I came across a note that my grandfather had made and he had written on these notes my favorite battle verse from Micah 6:8. As many people know, that verse leading into it says, "The Lord does not want from us a thousand lambs or even 10,000 rivers of oil, as great as that would be, or even the sacrifice of our first-born." Micah 6:8 says, "It shows you, O man, what is good and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

I said at the prayer breakfast recently I thought that verse summed up the entire Bible. What the Lord wants from us is to be fair and to be kind and to be humble and to realize that if we achieve any greatness in this world, that it comes not from our meager talents or abilities but from the good gifts of a great God.

I think that verse can sum up the life of LARKIN SMITH.

He did justice. He was a fair man. There is no question that he was a kind man. As some have mentioned here, even to the prisoners who served in his jail. He certainly was a humble man. He did not boast or take a lot of credit for things that he did or for the successes that he had achieved.

My favorite quote of all time is from Theodore Roosevelt. He said the credit goes to the man in the arena, the man whose face is marred by dust and sweat and tears, the man

who strives and falls short again and again because there is not effort without shortcoming and failure, but the man who in the end, if he succeeds, knows the triumph of high achievement. And with that verse, if he fails, he fails while daring to do greatly, so that he knows that his place will never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

I think what that quote says is that it is not always important whether we win or lose, that is not the most important thing in life. But the most important thing is to be involved and to participate and to be in the arena.

LARKIN SMITH was such a man. He was in the arena. He tried to make, in his own way, to make this country a better place in which to live. I know this, I certainly will miss him personally, and I know this country will miss him and I extend my sympathies to his family.

Mr. LAUGHLIN. Mr. Speaker, LARKIN was more than a colleague and a freshman Congressman to me. We had become friends because we were neighbors. I got to know him quite well, because we had the common things between each other—we are both from the South, both had law enforcement in our background, and often I rode home with LARKIN when we were in session late at night. All the trips home we would talk about that common interest in law enforcement, and he always shared the sheriff and the chief of police's perspective. I would put in the prosecutor's perspective, and we had a great joy in talking about those things of interest.

He certainly was a leader in this war on drugs. It is an area in our country that his leadership and his knowledge and his eloquence not only in this House but throughout our country will be missed.

The thing I appreciated so much about LARKIN, the big, burly, former sheriff, and former chief of police, he had a tremendous personality and sense of humor, and he demonstrated his love for children in so many ways. To me it was personal, because he and his wife, Sheila, would drive by in front of the house, and my son, Brad, or daughter, Mary, would be in the front and he would yell out, "Hey, boy," or, "Hi there, young lady," to my daughter. My children loved LARKIN SMITH, and they were as hurt as all the Members in this House, when their neighbor and friend met his death.

I guess the time that I appreciated his humor the most was we were all freshmen, and had not even taken the oath

of office, and sitting around talking about this much discussed pay raise that we were to talk about, that was going to come up in January. It was all Members-elect, sitting there that had their different theories and ideas and discussions and reasonings about what they were going to do, and it got my turn and I felt compelled that I had to say something, and so I said, in my best southern voice, "I am going to say I am LARKIN SMITH from Mississippi and I favor the pay raise," at which time he got a grin and he said, "Boy, I am still sheriff, and I will be until January 3, and you get on television and around a newspaperman and say that, and I will arrest you," and from then on LARKIN SMITH and I had a great relationship. I appreciated his humor so much.

He had a tremendous compassion, a person of strength. I heard the reputation about his integrity in Mississippi, taking over a sheriff's office that by reputation was ridden with disgrace, and he straightened that out and brought the kind of integrity to that office.

I was fortunate that I could attend his funeral, and it was truly a remarkable thing to see the Mississippians, both in law enforcement and those people he protected that filled that Coliseum, and showed their love and respect and affection for LARKIN SMITH, and the way they did feel, but even more tremendous than that was, driving from the funeral service at the Coliseum to the cemetery, and seeing the highway lined with people holding flags of our Nation, American flags, and the symbol of our Nation, that LARKIN loved and respected so much, and to see the people from all walks of life, some in swimming suits because the drive was right there on the beautiful Gulf of Mexico, and to see all walks of life standing there to show their respect for LARKIN SMITH, drove home absolutely to me what a great man this was, and for the people of Mississippi to stand out for long periods of time, that amounted to several hours, to show their respects on his final trip, made me so proud that I could tell people that LARKIN SMITH was my friend. He packed so many good contributions to the people of Mississippi into those few short years, and I am just proud to say he was my neighbor. I will miss my neighbor as all Members are going to miss LARKIN, because he was a good man.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, on Sunday night, August 13, Congressman LARKIN SMITH, of Mississippi, was killed in a small plane crash while traveling within his district. Coming on the heels of the death of Congressman

Mickey Leland, the twin tragedies serve to remind us that public service is not always a desk job in a safe office. LARKIN SMITH's death has a more profound impact for me, however. Not only was he a fellow freshman Republican, he also served with me on the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations. LARKIN SMITH was a dedicated servant of the people who wanted to make a difference, and one of the strongest accomplishments that he had in his all too brief career here was to bring his strong sense of commitment in the war on drugs to the U.S. Congress.

As chief of police for the town of Gulfport and later as sheriff for Harrison County, LARKIN brought with him a clear sense of what needs to be done in the war on drugs. One of his biggest concerns was the lack of a coordinated approach to the war on drugs that should have been coming from Washington. For 28 days, with one example each day, LARKIN wanted to bring this problem of the unending maze of regulatory bodies to our attention. His hope was to bring to Members attention the incredible maze that our drug policy must pass through in order to become law. It was obvious that LARKIN believed in what he was speaking about. His forceful manner in showing us what should be common sense to all was both noble and effective.

Of course, LARKIN was unable to finish his important work. However, his efforts did not go unnoticed among his fellow Members. I would like to call to the Members' attention the fact that many of us in the freshman Republican class are continuing to give 1 minute speeches each morning, trying to bring home the message. It is a fitting tribute to a man who cared so much about the war on drugs. But a more fitting tribute would be to adopt the proposals that LARKIN made to streamline the process on regulation and oversight of our drug war. Both Congressman SMITH and myself were original cosponsors of the bill to establish a single committee with jurisdiction over the war on drugs. I urge all members to work immediately toward its adoption.

I will always remember LARKIN as a sincere man who believed in himself and cared deeply for America. My heart goes out to his family, who has endured this tragic loss. Their loss is our loss as well. We shall miss him deeply.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, obviously, our friendship with LARKIN SMITH, for some Members outside of Mississippi was cut short so tragically, but in the very short time LARKIN

was here, he made a positive impression on all Members with his good humor, which many colleagues have referred to, his hard work, and deep commitment.

When he arrived it was clear he loved being in Congress. It was a real triumph for him to be here, and he would make his mark. He would make it in a way that we would all remember. We did not realize it would be so short.

LARKIN, as the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from New York [Mr. Weiss] stated, was the ranking minority member on the Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations, on which I serve. We have already heard of his fine work on that committee, but I wanted to add my comments that it was such a pleasure to work with him because even though we disagreed on almost every issue, he conducted his work diligently and in such a gracious manner. Although we disagreed, he was never a person to be disagreeable.

Mr. Speaker, we used to have a little contest, two of them. One was to make sure; we would match and compare votes to make sure that we had not voted the same by accident, and we used to also have a little contest to see which of us could get our calls returned by the administration quicker. I hope LARKIN won that contest.

But in any case, as my colleagues can tell, it was a joy to work with him, and because he conducted himself so graciously and with such good humor, he had tremendous communication with Members on both sides of the aisle.

The strength of his commitment; he was admired for the strength of his commitment, which has been mentioned, to stop the flow of illegal drugs flooding our Nation. As we all know, prior to being elected to Congress, we have heard over and over that LARKIN was a sheriff, and he served on the White House Conference for a Drug-Free America. As we work to serve the youth of our Nation by combatting drugs, we can do it knowing that we are carrying on LARKIN'S agenda.

My sincere condolences go to his wife, Sheila, and his family. LARKIN SMITH died in the services of his country. We will miss him fondly and will work for the goals he set for himself and for us all. I know that he is a proud son of Mississippi, but I thank God that he had a chance to receive national recognition for his work, and I know that made him happy.

To my colleagues: It is obvious that this is a sad week for us, special orders for Mickey yesterday, special orders for

LARKIN today. To my colleagues who are so driven by their concern and commitment for our country, I join those who have said, "Be careful."

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor and a pleasure to work with LARKIN SMITH. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I think today, as the gentlewoman from California [Ms. Pelosi] has pointed out, that the love and care we have for LARKIN transcends philosophies. I say, "Whether you are a conservative or a liberal, you knew when you met LARKIN that you met a man of character, decency, and he had a way about him that you just loved him and cared for him."

So, Mr. Speaker, it is with a great loss that I share the sentiments of the rest of the colleagues here about LARKIN.

As my colleagues know, when I thought about speaking about LARKIN, there is one thing that came to mind about him. He ceased the day for Our Heavenly Father. In this respect he thought and acted each day with a reverence for life and for his fellow man and woman. He had a way when we were with him in a group of making fun, and he helped us to not take ourselves so seriously and to look upon him and the way he joked about others and himself to create this bond of friendship. It was unique, and I know in our freshman class we had several freshman social functions, and one was at my colleague's, the gentleman from Vermont [Mr. Smith], house in Vermont, and several of the jokes that he gave to us at that time almost put us in tears. I mean it was just a wonderful evening because of his friendship and because of his humor, and we have all spoken about it.

Mr. Speaker, I think that that sense of humor is something that we will all sorely miss here today.

In addition to helping us not take ourselves too seriously, he sort of lightened the load, not just with his humor, but by his way of approaching the problems. He talked about priorities in America. He talked about drugs, and he talked about the criminal justice system.

As my colleagues know, I had the honor of putting his name into nomination at the committee on committees on the Republican side. He wanted to be on the Committee on the Judiciary, and, as my colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, everybody on that committee is a lawyer, and LARKIN SMITH was an individual who was not a lawyer, but with his broad background in criminal justice he was appointed. So, I had that honor during the committee on committees. He seemed

to have a sense of Congress, and like the gentlewoman from California [Ms. Pelosi] said, he just relished in this job.

Several times I went up to his office in the Cannon Building and visited with him, and talked about the job, and I got a lot of good pointers from him as a freshman. I think he made my job improve because of his insight.

I would just like to conclude by wishing my condolences and offering my sympathy to Sheila, his wife, and just say, "God bless you, LARKIN. We miss you very much."

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, let me close by some quotes and some Bible statements that I made at LARKIN's memorial when we had it here in Washington, and these quotes remind me of our friend today, and I quote:

"It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives."

From Revelation 14, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. They may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

And I close with the verses and the writings of Paul in Second Timothy which describe LARKIN.

"I fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith."

Mr. PAYNE of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with others in the House in remembering our colleague, LARKIN SMITH.

I did not know LARKIN before he came to Congress, but I had the opportunity to attend the seminar for freshman Congressmen with him and learned more about LARKIN and we both regularly attended the Thursday morning prayer breakfast.

Regularly we would see each other in the center aisle at the back of this Chamber, and talk about what was going on in our lives. Neither LARKIN nor I had ever served in a legislative body before and I benefited from sharing his views and experiences. In short order, I came to like and respect LARKIN, and because he was a genuine, hardworking person who was here because he cared, and because he truly wanted to make a difference.

LARKIN was not with us for long, but it was long enough to recognize that there was a man who could have made a superb contribution to the Nation. LARKIN brought to the House a new perspective in our efforts at drug eradication. As Harrison County sheriff, he had worked in the field in this never-ending war. As an experienced law-enforcement officer the contributions he could have made to the work of

the Judiciary and Government Operations Committees can only be imagined. What need not be imagined, however, is that they would have been very real, very concrete, no-nonsense initiatives.

He was so concerned about the drug menace, and our need to be more effective in battling it. He spoke on the floor, time after time, about some of the inefficiencies that we needed to know about and correct. He would have taught us so much, if it had not been for his tragic accident.

It was apparent to everyone who knew LARKIN SMITH that, from his first day on the job, he was deeply committed to moving forward the interests of his constituents and the work of the committees on which he served. He would undoubtedly have served as a model for future members, as a legislator dedicated to the service of his district, the Nation, and especially of future generations.

Our hearts go out to LARKIN's wife Sheila and to his daughter Tracy and grandson Bryce. We will miss LARKIN very much.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, this has been a tumultuous year for this Congress, for this House. We have all suffered as we watched the events of this year occur. LARKIN noticed these changes and these events, along with the rest of us. We, as freshmen, felt that this has been an exceptional year and we commented on it, on the changes that had taken place in the House. Little did LARKIN know that he would become part of the tumult that has affected this House. This House has been called a living body, an organism similar to the society that we represent. To lose an individual of LARKIN's character and ability is a tragedy in any community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand today to pay tribute to the late Representative LARKIN I. SMITH of Mississippi, a man I knew a short time as a fellow freshman Representative and a strong spokesman for our war on drugs.

Before his swearing-in on January 3 this year, LARKIN was the Sheriff in Harrison County, and before that he was Chief of Police in his hometown of Gulfport. He made drugs a campaign issue like no one else could.

I remember a videotape that was shown at a freshman dinner held before we all took the oath of office. It was a campaign commercial of LARKIN in his uniform on a police boat, setting out to patrol his area of responsibility in the Gulf of Mexico. His words were strong. He was committed. He wanted Federal involvement, more money for interdic-

tion. He wanted to fight in the war on drugs. To him that meant keeping drugs out of the country. LARKIN SMITH was the motivator in a coordinated effort among Gulf Coast States to stop the flow of drugs into the United States.

He never lost that drive once the voters of his district chose to send this humble and likable man to the Nation's capital to represent them. The depth of his commitment to fight the war on drugs is an inspiration for me.

His strength of character and the impression he made on me in such a short acquaintance make it all the easier for me to support the President's new initiative against the scourge of drugs in America.

I want to take this opportunity to send publicly my condolences to LARKIN's wife Sheila, his daughter Tracy and his young grandson. He was a good man and we will miss him here where he did a rare thing by making an impact in such a short period of time.

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, LARKIN SMITH and I came to Congress together as Members of the 1989 freshman class. It has been well-stated here how LARKIN was considered a rising star here in the Congress, a man able to match his skills to his ideals, and now we can only guess as to what great things he would have accomplished.

As newcomers to the Congress, LARKIN and I spent some time together at our orientation sessions, as we were both trying to learn how to be the best possible Representatives we could be to our districts. We sat next to each other at the freshman orientation conference on issues at Harvard University for an entire week. It was there that I got to know LARKIN and to talk to him about a lot of different things, sometimes on issues, but most often about other things that we cared a lot about.

I remember one thing that LARKIN expressed to me was how difficult it was going to be to find a way to spend time with his family now and how much he really wanted to try to do that. I learned there firsthand about his commitment toward stopping the drug epidemic that is sweeping this Nation. His background in law enforcement has been well-stated here, and that was certainly part of his motivation, but I believe there was something much deeper at work in LARKIN SMITH.

When you talked to LARKIN, you knew that he absolutely loved the gulf coast area which he represented here in the Congress. He was very angry at the drug pirates that were

moving in because they have been forced out of other places. He was a man who saw his community at risk, and he decided he was not going to take that without a fight. It is one thing to say that we should fight the war on drugs, but it is another to step up to the firing line, and that is where LARKIN SMITH could always be found in this war on drugs.

He died in a plane crash while he was trying to reach the people of his large rural district. I can relate to that, because my district in southern Illinois is a couple of hundred miles from one end to the other, and the temptation to try to be in two places at the same time is tremendous. Obviously, you cannot do that, so you make up a schedule that is tight and sometimes unforgiving. When LARKIN SMITH died, he was trying to give the people of his district what he promised them, service, despite all the potential risks to his personal safety, and I am sure the good people of Mississippi appreciate his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, when someone dies, they leave behind a family, and LARKIN SMITH loved his family more than anything else he knew or did. Our hearts go out to them in this time of grief.

Mr. Speaker, LARKIN was just a good and decent man. He was just a very solid human being, and I know he is the kind of person that people ought to feel proud to send to represent them in this Congress. I know the people of Mississippi do. We are going to miss him a great deal here, and again I appreciate this opportunity to participate.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, LARKIN, that is a unique name for a unique man. I had never heard the name before, LARKIN. Perhaps we will never hear it again. Perhaps he will be the only Member of Congress in the history of the United States who will have the name of LARKIN attached to his honored role or call in the Congress. LARKIN, it means a spirited, high-soaring individual with great gallant who would influence the atmosphere around him. That is a pretty good description of our friend, LARKIN SMITH.

As a matter of fact, the dictionary—and I am taking some liberty in describing the lark—calls it a songbird of the Old World, and LARKIN was our songbird as it were of the Old South, combining the chivalry and the gentlemanliness and the demeanor of the Old South and the courage of the New South.

LARKIN was a joy to be with and was properly given the name LARKIN by his parents and his family.

It is true that my short friendship with LARKIN was curtailed by the tragic events, but that friendship was a meaningful one even for that short time, and as it has been mentioned, his brief service on the Committee on the Judiciary bore fruits almost immediately, engaged in some of the heavier debates of that committee right from the start and was involved in the maneuverings and the negotiations that always accompany a good committee's work.

Yes, his flight, the flight of our songbird, has been ended, but he did soar to a high place in our minds and in our hearts, and the atmosphere that he flew around and matched with his own spirit has made us all better Members of Congress.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I find this to be a very unpleasant experience, especially as a new Member here in this great institution, of having to give speeches, and it was just yesterday that I was here in the well and trying to share my thoughts of how much my friend, Mickey Leland, meant to me, and now today I have had to do the same for another dear friend whom I have had the opportunity to meet and to learn from his very much, not only in drug enforcement but in other aspects of our living here in this great place in Washington.

As a member of the freshman class, I had the privilege of getting to know LARKIN SMITH at our orientation course last January at Harvard University Schools of Government. I found him to be a very warm, friendly, and happy person. His charm and warmth made me feel welcome in this hectic and sometimes cold and unfriendly place like Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, the saddest thoughts that I have on LARKIN's death are that he was so young and just starting a great political career. His previous service at levels of law enforcement are to his credit. He brought a unique perspective to this body, and that perspective will be sorely missed. I learned a lot from this man about drug enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, we have a saying in the islands about a fish, and the first part of the fish, when it starts to rot, is the head, and one of the things that I learned from LARKIN SMITH is what we need to do in these drug enforcement problems that we have sometimes, we need to go after the drug barons of America if we are really serious about doing anything about stopping this insane problem that we are facing here in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude this tribute with the following scripture lines that I feel touch on the life of this committed and dedicated public servant:

Behold, my soul delighteth in the things of the Lord; and my heart pondereth continually upon the things which I have seen and heard.

My God hath been my support; he hath led me through mine afflictions in the wilderness; and he hath preserved me upon the waters of the great deep.

He hath filled me with his love, even unto the consuming of my flesh.

He hath confounded mine enemies, unto the causing of them to quake before me.

Behold, he hath heard my cry by day, and he hath given me knowledge by visions in the nighttime.

And by day have I waxed bold in mighty prayer before him; yea, my voice have I sent up on high; and angels came down and ministered unto me.

Rejoice, O my heart, and cry unto the Lord, and say: O Lord, I will praise thee forever; yea, my soul will rejoice in thee, my God, and the rock of my salvation.

May the gates of hell be shut continually before me, because that my heart is broken and my spirits is contrite! O Lord, wilt thou not shut the gates of thy righteousness before me, that I may walk in the path of the low valley, that I may be strict in the plain road!

Yea, I know that God will give liberally to him that asketh. Yea, my God will give me, if I ask not amiss; therefore I will lift up my voice unto thee; yea, I will cry unto thee, my God, the rock of my rightousness. Behold, my voice shall forever ascend up unto thee, my rock and mine everlasting God. Amen.

I pay this special tribute to you, LARKIN SMITH, a true gentleman, not only from the South but representing this great country of ours.

Mr. MACHTLEY. Mr. Speaker, many of us give speeches about many subjects in this very historic Chamber. None is more difficult than to talk about the loss of a friend, talk about the loss of a colleague, particularly when that loss occurs at the beginning of his career, a career which has so much hope, so much greatness in store.

LARKIN SMITH, I know, had a great relationship with his God, and he understood a personal relationship which few people are ever able to obtain. I think it is that personal relationship which permitted him to enjoy and accept life and accept the things which life provides for us, often tragic, often unexpected.

It is difficult for us within our limited experiences and with our limited knowledge to articulate and explain death. We are saddened by death, and we are saddened at the loss of a good friend.

Opportunities like this help us reflect, to search inside our hearts, and to try and articulate and to grow and to learn from his life and even from his death.

LARKIN and I came from different States. Until we were elected to Congress, we did not know one another. We came from different backgrounds and had different experiences. We both came to this Congress with the hope that we might make this country a better place for our efforts here.

None was more committed to making this country better than LARKIN SMITH. Sheriff LARKIN SMITH, he came to this Congress committed to a moral fiber. He came committed to integrity and to his family. He was a kind and he was a great man. He stood for law and order, and his life reflected that.

He spoke daily here as I stand with charts about a menace to our society which none of us had the experience that he had, the personal experience of being a sheriff dealing with drugs on a daily basis. There are few of us who have a vision for our own lives and few of us who have a vision for this country. Unfortunately, there are even fewer who work toward that vision.

LARKIN SMITH was one of those lucky individuals who had a vision for this country and for himself, and was able to work toward that vision.

Today we paid tribute earlier to Mickey Leland who recently passed away. I went to that service and came to this floor with the hope of giving a tribute to these late Congressmen. But like in their life, they gave to me in their death spiritual encouragement to continue to carry on the things which were important to them and which are so important to our country.

We are all saddened by both of their deaths. We will miss LARKIN SMITH's strength and his commitment, his purpose. We will miss his good nature and his love of country and his love of Mississippi. We will miss his friendship.

As a fellow member of the Prayer Breakfast, I know LARKIN SMITH is still giving. He is still going strong, giving speeches, only now his audience are the great former Members of this institution who preceded him to that special House chamber in Heaven. We are better for having known LARKIN SMITH. The world is better for his life.

Our prayers today and always are with his family as they put their life together without their dear father and friend. Our freshman class, this Congress and Mississippi, and the whole country will miss LARKIN SMITH.

Thank you, LARKIN, for your life. It was important for all of us.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I thank the gentleman for his comments. I know tomorrow morning when the Prayer Breakfast meets that Ron and LARKIN and a number of us including myself attend regularly, we are going to be saddened by the fact that we will not have that great smile and booming voice that we always used to enjoy having greet us.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, obviously I would like to associate myself with all of the fine testimonial that has been made on behalf of LARKIN by our classmates and other colleagues in this body.

I think that it is very hard to express the depth of feeling, and it may be hard for people to understand in the 10 months or so or the 7 months or whatever it was, the different spans of time that we knew LARKIN, how strong a bond, how meaningful a relationship had developed with him. I will never forget his camaraderie or his friendship.

We were part of the fifth floor Cannon gang together up there on freshman row sharing the frustrations of the elevator, the frustrations of not quite enough space to take care of staff, and all of those other little things that we got a chance to talk about from time to time, and laugh about when we got all through commiserating about our minor little problems.

I guess I can express as so many of us can that there are gaps, there are already gaps in our day, significant gaps that come from the loss of LARKIN, whether it is at the Prayer Breakfast, whether it is just walking back. Quite often I used to seek LARKIN out. He was good company to walk back with, and to get the latest stories, and to hear the latest news from Mississippi, and it was a good walk back to the fifth floor in the Cannon Building. And he often made it a lot more pleasurable than it would have been otherwise.

LARKIN and I shared some background in common being from Florida, and being a product of local government service. In that sphere I had seen firsthand some of the law enforcement problems and drug-related crime problems, their effect on the quality of life in our communities, the cost to our pocketbooks, to our citizens and to our communities as that terrible plague has come about upon us. LARKIN and I were very serious about it. I do not think we ever took ourselves very seriously, but we were very serious, and I always would say, "LARKIN, I am going to chase them out of my dis-

trict and chase them up to your district." And he said, "I'm ready. You send them up and we will catch them, and we will put them in jail." And he did, and he would still be doing it if he were here.

We talked about a lot of issues in the Southern Caucus and about the gulf coast issues particularly. I think LARKIN and I were actually on somewhat opposing sides of an issue that is still before us on the turtle-excluder devices on our shrimpers. I think of the discussions that we had on that, and I have a district that is very partial to making sure that the turtles get a fair break, and LARKIN was making sure that the shrimpers get a fair break. The good part of that is that with a lot of good humor, and a lot of understanding, of equity, I think that LARKIN came up with a workable solution to it that both the turtle champions and the shrimpers can embrace. I hope that is a piece of legislation we are going to get to see more of before we are through.

There is just no doubt that that kind of approach, even though we came at it from a different side, LARKIN made easier with his humor and with his special understanding.

I really got a glimpse of just how special that understanding was when we traveled down to Gulfport and Biloxi for the remarkable service at the civic center there. Others have spoken of this today, and it is hard to express. I think perhaps that the two law enforcement officers who escorted us back to our plane, and we were flying commercially and had a tight schedule, and they escorted us back to the airport so that we could make our plane, they were very tight-lipped, of course, and very saddened by the event, and the only comment they made was to the effect that folks thought a lot about LARKIN down in that part of the world, and they said it in such a way that you knew that they meant it, and that they knew if you disagreed with them you would be wise not to say so. Of course, I do not think there would be anybody who would have disagreed, certainly nobody who knew LARKIN.

I guess that as we have gone along, the other memories that I have being a freshman and sharing some of the wonderful revelations that come to freshmen as they come to this town, and to this marvelous institution, and accept their responsibilities and take up their tasks, we all learn things, and we get together once a week or so and try to share them. And we do it in a way that we try and be helpful to each other. I think LARKIN had a special knack for finding out some of the things we needed to do, and some of the things

we needed to avoid, and he shared them in such a good, neighborly and thoughtful way that I think he has probably saved all of us a lot of embarrassment at one point or another. I know that some things that are happening in my office now would not have been happening unless LARKIN had brought them to our attention.

So I think finally I would like to offer my condolences to his constituents, to all of the people of Mississippi, of course, who showed their love and respect for this man by filling that civic center so dramatically, and for the tenderness and the feeling of that memorial service. And of course to his wife, Sheila, and Tracy, and Bryce, may God bless them all.

Mr. HOLLOWAY. I will just make it very brief because we have said many good things about LARKIN, and I am a person that is very hard to impress, one who would not go to the next corner to see Paul Newman or anyone else, but LARKIN impressed me as an individual. He really impressed me and his wife, Sheila, impressed my wife so. I am sorry that we did not get to know them better than we did.

This Chamber has many champions for many causes. Our friend from Mississippi [Mr. Montgomery] is definitely a champion for the veterans of this country. Our friend from Florida who just passed away, Mr. Pepper, was definitely a champion for the senior citizens of this country. The gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Curt Weldon, is very definitely the champion for the fireman of this country, and I say very much so that LARKIN SMITH would have been a champion for the law enforcement officers of this country, a group who really needs a champion at this point, because I think they are unfairly treated at times. When we speak of brutality, so often we would rather have 100 murders sometimes I think than accept that we had one brutality. So I think LARKIN was very badly needed in this country, someone who would have offered something to championing a cause for law enforcement officers of this country.

I thought a great deal of just getting to chat with him here on the floor. But the one thing that I will end in remembering was we had rumors that, and I guess we could not call him an American, but that Greg Johnson was going to be here to burn another flag on the grounds of the Capitol. And of course it drew a big crowd of us. But as the crowd dwindled down, the picture I have is LARKIN and myself signing autographs of a couple of children there, and we were probably the last two left over in front of the Methodist building,

but we were there, and if he would have come out, we would have taken the flag away from him. I do believe LARKIN was there with the same support that I had, and that he would not have burned that flag on the grounds of this Capitol.

So that is the picture that I have that I will be left with, as a reminder of LARKIN. I have to say he was a great American.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. It is hard to imagine that LARKIN is not going to be with us. I mean I feel such a sense of loss, and I know our whole class feels such a sense of loss. But I recall the very first moment that LARKIN SMITH became a part of my consciousness. I was looking through the documents concerning our freshman class and certainly LARKIN's picture was there, and I looked at it and then at his background.

I said to myself, "Oh, boy, just what we need, a sheriff from Mississippi." And I fell right into the media-generated stereotype of Southerners, especially southern sheriffs.

I expected to meet a yahoo, somebody with a red neck and no mind.

When I got to our first freshman meetings I guess I was a little stand-offish. Then listening to LARKIN, just meeting that man once, just absolutely overwhelmed that negative stereotype.

He was a wonderful and decent and caring human being. This is a man who grew up as a law enforcement person, a person involved in law enforcement, having to deal with force, having to deal with the criminal element. Yet, he had kept such a positive spirit about himself. The positive nature that LARKIN just gave to those around him was something that we could draw on from LARKIN. Even today, every time I walk into this Hall and miss that positive spirit, and I look over, looking for that head of gray hair, sitting here thinking I could sit down beside him and have my spirits lifted.

LARKIN was a lawman in his life. In his 25 years of adulthood he spent that time fighting for honesty, for justice and for American liberty. He asked for honesty because LARKIN, as we know, was a lawman who risked his life and gave his career to cleanup organized crime in his own county, in his own area of Mississippi. We knew that he knew that honesty was so important to a public official. He fought for justice. He was committed not just to getting the criminal but protecting the innocent. That is what justice is all about in this society. It is not just putting the guilty people away in jails;

it is making sure that those innocent people are protected. That was part of LARKIN's positive spirit that you could sense about him every time you talked to him about whatever issue it was.

He was a man dedicated to human liberty.

What does America stand for? That is what LARKIN SMITH stood for. He was proud to be an American. I know that LARKIN understood law enforcement better than anybody else in the freshman class and perhaps better than anybody else here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

He knew that the law should not be focused on criminals but it should be focused also on protecting the innocent. But to the degree that force was exercised, he knew that the law had to be effective in dealing with criminals.

I remember talking about the AK-47 issue, he managed to take members of the Committee on the Judiciary to a firing range and had a shooting contest between an AK-47 and a shotgun, just to demonstrate to people on the Committee on the Judiciary the difference between these weapons and what it meant in terms of taking these weapons out of the hands of the criminals and the issues that confronted us dealing with gun control.

He knew that Government itself had to be effective at the top here in Washington, DC, if we were going to fight an effective war against drugs. We have all heard that today in these tributes to LARKIN, that he was committed to making sure that we could manage this fight in this war against drugs more effectively, trying to make sure that all of the authority that is now dispersed amongst so many committees here in the House of Representatives could be brought together into one committee.

Mr. Speaker, I would just close by saying that I feel a great personal loss that LARKIN is not with us. I know that Sheila, Tracy, Bryce are feeling a sense of loss that we cannot imagine, but I do feel a sense of loss and I empathize with them. I feel a loss not only for myself, but I feel a loss for America because I know that as I continue in my career and I hope to be here for a few years, perhaps 10, God willing, with the voters voting, but I know that during that entire career I will be thinking what would LARKIN SMITH be doing here, what contribution would he be doing?

So we have a sense of loss today for those of us who know him and a sense of loss for his family certainly, but we have a sense of loss for America and for his constituents.

LARKIN, wherever you are, God bless you, we will not forget you. Your life is really worth something. We just feel a sense of pain that you are gone, and I know that when we all die we will see you up in Heaven. God bless you, LARKIN.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, it is a very sad time to have to be here to remember our colleague who was such a great person. I think one of the things I will always regret is the fact that I did not get to know him better.

The freshman class had a lot of esprit de corps, the best that I have seen in any freshman class since I have been here. Certainly I think better esprit de corps than we had in our own freshman class a few years ago.

But I think what bothers me the most about the passing of LARKIN SMITH is the fact that he was everything good about America. He was everything good about the people who serve in this institution. He was everything good about the American people. He was a patriot, a great patriot. The gentleman from New Hampshire's story about the flag, I remember State day so well and that story is such a great story. But he was a tough law-and-order man, a sheriff.

As Dana Rohrabacher said, you get the imagery of this tough southern sheriff, yet and even more important, he was kind, he was compassionate, he was gentle. You remember him as a loving, caring father and husband. That gives so much dimension to this man that we all love so much.

I guess a way to put it would be that he had it together. I think that as we send our condolences today, remembering LARKIN, we send condolences to Sheila and her family.

I tried to think as I listened to previous speakers, I was trying to think of something that LARKIN would like to write if he could write his own epitaph.

I just came up with these three or four lines.

I think it would be: LARKIN SMITH loved his God, he loved America, he loved Mississippi, he loved Sheila and his family and he served them all very well.

Mr. WELDON. Mr. Speaker, in coming to Congress, one of the nice things about this institution is that Members are able to meet, interact with a wide diversity of individuals representing all walks of life in America, all backgrounds, and all professions. We have teachers, educators, lawyers, military personnel, housewives. We have those who work as community activists, and we have people like LARKIN SMITH who dedicated his life, and others who had dedicated their

lives, to protecting all Americans in their work in law enforcement.

I think that the people that have the most credibility in this body in speaking to specific issues, are those who have a specific hands-on background before coming to this body and dealing with the problems which they are so closely identified with. That was the special thing about LARKIN. LARKIN was a career law enforcement individual. When he talked about the problems of crime and drugs, it was not because it sounded good in a political commercial or because it was the right thing to say, but because the American people were concerned. It was because here was a man who had dedicated his entire life to working on the concerns, and his local community involved with criminal activities, with those who would break the law, with the enforcement of our legislation, and our laws, and with the problems of drugs and drug dealing. It was natural that when LARKIN came to Washington, he would take up this issue and be a champion. The reason why, in such a short period of time, less than 8 months, that LARKIN SMITH was able to grab so much interest and support from the Members of this body is because LARKIN had credibility. He knew the issues inside and out. He had been there, down there where the rubber meets the road, working on the problems that law enforcement officers all across America have to deal with on a day-in and day-out basis. He arrested drug dealers, was involved in tense situations, and those kind of experiences are what relate best to helping Members solve America's problems.

LARKIN SMITH truly was a special person in this body. He was someone that we all looked up to and admired, but perhaps even more importantly, he was a symbol for the law enforcement community, across America. He was someone the average police officer, the sheriff, a district attorney, could identify with, because he was someone who had really spent a great deal of his time working in a very firsthand real way in dealing with these problems with a local community. We are going to miss that. We will miss that special expertise and special dedication.

Another group of people that LARKIN identified with very quickly, and this group of people I feel very strongly about, are those millions of people across America who dedicate their lives to the fire and emergency services network. One of the first things that LARKIN did when he came to Washington besides working on law enforcement issues, was to lend his effort to support, support mechanisms, and to sup-

port new initiatives to help his volunteers and paid fire and emergency service people back home in his State. They recognized him for that effort. I think because police and fire and emergency services tend to go together. I can recall LARKIN, time and again, coming to me and saying, "Curt, what can I be doing to help not only the people back in my district but across America, who are serving our citizens during times of emergency?" LARKIN SMITH was that kind of a person.

The most vivid memory of LARKIN SMITH that I have, I think has been captured forever by the Congressional Quarterly, the weekly publication that comes out here in Washington, distributed across America, that focuses on our activities as legislators in Washington. The July 22 issue of Congressional Quarterly, they captured the essence of LARKIN SMITH. If Members get a copy of that issue, Members will see a photograph, on the section entitled "Law and Judiciary," and a headline identifying House Republicans all out to extinguish a flag threat, when the burner of the American flag, from Texas, came to Capitol Hill and threatened to burn the flag on the steps of the Capitol. There in the newspaper is a photograph of LARKIN SMITH with the Supreme Court Building behind him and the American flag over his head, carrying a portable fire extinguisher and saying, "Let that fellow dare come up the steps of the Capitol, or dare come to the Supreme Court steps, and I guarantee you that flag will be extinguished before he can begin to ignite it." That was LARKIN SMITH, out there, once again, using those experiences that made him the kind of man that he was, and allowing Members to remember him for the kind of person that he had become, in our minds, and who will continue to provide the spirit and the ability to motivate Members as we go on and continue our jobs as legislators in this body. A true American, a true patriot, and one who really was the essence of knowing how to deal with a problem in a very real way here in Washington, where sometimes we get caught up in our own concerns, not realizing the impact that we can and should be having locally.

It was a real honor for me to know LARKIN SMITH, and while he has passed on and while my heart goes out to his wife and to his daughter and for his grandchild that he loved so dearly, LARKIN SMITH is going to stay with Members, for as long as all of us Members are in the body, as well as the spirit of Mickey Leland and those others who have gone on before us.

Let me say, LARKIN, that we will continue to fight the strong fight because of what you did for these Members and because of the spirit that you provided for these Members in helping these Members to better understand the problems of these people in America who are trying to come to grips with law enforcement issues, and with the drug problem that we are suffering across our Nation.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I could not help but think when I was listening to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Weldon], that when he died and when a flag was draped over his coffin, there could have been no more suitable use of our American flag than to honor such a man.

If anyone who had known LARKIN SMITH, and I know many people watching on C-SPAN from Mississippi did know LARKIN, as they worked to get him here, if these people had the opportunity to get to know LARKIN SMITH, he probably would have been their best friend. His office, as it turned out in our freshman class, was just down the hall from mine, and I used to drop in on him once in a while and he on me during the week. He had that infectious personality, that wry wit, genuine concern for others that is the mark of the truly likable person. As a result, he was a natural in politics. People just loved him, and so did we, all of us freshman classmates.

So the discovery, when we were on our August recess, that he had died in a plane crash, could not have come as a more hurtful shock to all Members, and we were scattered, his classmates, all over the country. Quickly, we were in telephone contact, and in the 7½ months that we had been together, we had already grown close. This tragic occurrence brought Members even closer together still. For half a day, all we knew was that LARKIN's single engine plane had disappeared, disappeared from radar screens about 9:25, on Sunday evening. It was not until the next morning that we found out, for certain, that he had hit a tree and he had been killed instantly in a small plane.

President Bush personally directed the personnel from Kessler Air Force Base in their ground search, and the Customs Service, with which LARKIN used to work in drug interdiction. More than 500 people spread out in that effort, and each new detail and news report came as a surge of electricity to all. Of course, in the end, we found out LARKIN was no longer to be here. Just 7½ months after our journey started

together, one of our fellows is gone, but this tragedy, I think, has brought all Members closer together than ever before.

We will all remember LARKIN as someone who towered among the Members of this body. His beliefs were so strong, and his arguments in behalf of those beliefs so strong that each Member could not help but feel that we were proud to be part of LARKIN's team. I think we have discussed tonight, and Members have heard about the series of 28 speeches that he began, because he was so discomfited as a member of the law enforcement community for 23 years, that up here on Capitol Hill we were setting up road blocks, getting in the way on the war on drugs and in this series of speeches he pointed out the more than 80 committees and subcommittees and task forces were hampering the efforts of our drug czar, Bill Bennett. I still remember the day he took the floor and challenged the Members, Members on both sides of the aisle, with the following words which I would like to quote verbatim:

> Mr. Speaker, with the recent introduction of the Administration's comprehensive crime bill, I would like to take this opportunity to issue a challenge to my distinguished colleagues on both sides of the aisle.
>
> It has become increasingly apparent that the war on drugs and crime cannot be fairly characterized as such. What we are currently waging is, at best, a public relations campaign. The war on drugs, in my opinion, has not even begun.

Mr. Speaker, imagine LARKIN SMITH, this big guy, this Mississippi county sheriff, standing out here and challenging all the Congress and saying this.

We need to reduce the bureaucratic mire of 80-plus congressional committees overseeing the work of the drug czar into one single oversight committee. The lines of command need to be clearly drawn, and the battle plans must be laid. Congress has the opportunity to seize the offensive and to declare a sunset for the end of this war on drugs and crime.

I urge my fellow soldiers not to grow weary, but to put on the full armor of battle. If we are serious about the scourge of drugs and crime in our nation, we would be advised to adopt General MacArthur's admonition to Congress in 1951, when he stated: In war, there is no substitute for victory.

LARKIN, we are not going to grow weary. We will remember your words. We are going to fight on in your name and in your stead, all of us, the freshman Members of your class, and I hope and I know all of us here today hope and pray that we will be successful in those efforts because they

meant so much to LARKIN, to the people of Mississippi who sent him here and to all the people of America.

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to join my colleagues in expressing our sense of deep sadness at the death of our friend and colleague, Congressman LARKIN I. SMITH.

Congressman SMITH joined this body at the beginning of the 101st Congress after a 22-year career as a law enforcement officer in Mississippi. He was the chief deputy sheriff of the Pearl River County Sheriff's Department from 1966 through 1972. He served as chief investigator in the Harrison County Sheriff's Department from 1972 to 1977. From 1977 to 1983, LARKIN SMITH was Chief of Police of the Gulfport Police Department and in 1984, he became Sheriff of Harrison County, MS, a position he held until entering the House of Representatives.

It was my honor and privilege to have Congressman SMITH on my House Judiciary Committee. He was an outstanding member of my committee and because of his background in law enforcement, he served on both the Subcommittee on Crime and the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice.

During his short time on my committee, he became known as a hard-working, concerned Member who brought a wealth of experience to our discussions about the American criminal justice system.

The people of Mississippi's Fifth District had a very capable Representative here in Washington who demonstrated repeatedly a spirit of determination to pursue goals important to his constituency.

My deepest sympathy is with his wife, Sheila, and his child, Tracy.

Mr. NATCHER. Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed serving in the Congress with our friend, LARKIN SMITH. Although he was with us just a short time he, from his character, his achievements and his faithful service, impressed all of the Members of the House of Representatives.

In every position he held, either private or public, he achieved distinction and his service in all of his assignments was marked by a high sense of conscience and duty. He was always a gentleman and sincerely believed that if you take care of the health of your people and educate your children, you continue to live in the strongest country in the world.

I want to extend my deepest sympathy to his lovely wife and to the members of his family.

Mr. HORTON. Mr. Speaker, today we pay tribute to a second colleague who perished in a plane crash during the August recess. Though LARKIN SMITH had only served in the House for about 7 months, he had already shown promise as one of the standouts of the freshman class of the 101st Congress.

As the ranking Republican on the Government Operations Committee, I was happy when LARKIN came to the panel as a newly elected Member of Congress. The day he was given his assignment on Government Operations, he called me to find out how he could best serve on the committee as well as to make several suggestions for the committee to investigate. His initiative told me right then that he was a Member with a great deal of potential.

My first impressions of LARKIN lead me to conclude that he was the right man to be selected as the ranking Republican on the Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations. Yes, as a freshman, LARKIN SMITH was selected to serve as the ranking Republican on a subcommittee. In fact, he was the only freshman afforded this opportunity. Already, LARKIN SMITH was beginning to stand out among his peers.

Since his election, I have come to know LARKIN well. What impressed me during his short time in the House and on the Government Operations Committee was his ability to be an effective legislator and negotiator. His effectiveness as a legislator stemmed in part from his ability to gain the respect of his colleagues from both sides of the aisle. He knew when to negotiate and compromise to achieve a solution and he knew when to hold firm to his principles. His ability to balance these two demonstrated his maturity as a legislator.

LARKIN was also working hard at home in Mississippi for the citizens of the Fifth District. From day one, he worked hard to save Mississippi's Army Ammunition Factory which employed many people from his district. He realized the importance that this plant held for his constituents in terms of jobs and its importance to the Nation as a whole since its closure meant that the Pentagon was going to become more dependent on foreign manufacturers. This is just one example of his efforts.

On August 13, 1989, the House of Representatives lost one of its rising stars with the death of LARKIN SMITH. The people of Mississippi's Fifth Congressional District lost their outstanding man in Washington. Both groups benefited greatly for having been served by LARKIN SMITH even if only

for a short time. He was gaining respect and recognition from both groups who saw tremendous potential for leadership in him. And while we are all saddened that he is no longer with us, we can find some solace in having been given the privilege of knowing him.

My wife Nancy and I want to extend our most heartfelt sympathies to LARKIN's wife Sheila and his family. I know you are proud of him for he certainly made a difference.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, as so many of our colleagues have pointed out, LARKIN was truly a rising star in our midst. He was incredibly energetic and devoted to his job, and from every indication it was obvious that he was going to make a mark on Congress and the Nation. It is just difficult to understand why someone so young and promising could be taken from us when he was just launching a career. Nevertheless, in a brief span of time he inspired us with his love of country and devotion to duty.

It is indeed ironic that at the time of LARKIN's tragic death, the Nation's attention was focused on the President's initiative in the war on drugs, a war that LARKIN not only advocated but helped to launch. He was a law enforcement officer without equal, and his career in law enforcement was characterized by an unrelenting struggle against illegal drugs and the criminals involved in this activity.

Mr. Speaker, all of us are going to miss LARKIN SMITH very much, just as his friends and constituents in Mississippi's Fifth Congressional District are going to miss him. Like his immediate predecessors, our good friend Senator Trent Lott and the late William Colmer, chairman of the Rules Committee, LARKIN SMITH was a distinguished son of the great State of Mississippi, and the people of Mississippi can take solace in the fact that he represented them well and carried on in the finest traditions of that State. To his family and friends, I extend my heartfelt sympathy and condolences at this sad time.

Mr. HUGHES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to join in paying tribute to our late friend and colleague, Congressman LARKIN SMITH of Mississippi.

Although LARKIN only served in the Congress for some 7 months prior to his tragic death in August 1, I had the opportunity to get to know him very well. That's because LARKIN was a member of my Subcommittee on Crime, and we worked together on many important drug abuse and law enforcement issues.

As a former sheriff, LARKIN brought a unique perspective to our subcommittee. He understood the needs of our law enforcement officers, and the problems of our criminal justice system, because he spent most of his adult life in that field. He had the respect and support of our Nation's law enforcement community because he was one of them. When LARKIN spoke, it was not only for himself, but also for the hundreds of thousands of police officers, judges, and other law enforcement officials who put their lives on the line every day to help defend our country against crime. When LARKIN died, every police officer in America lost a great friend.

LARKIN first joined my subcommittee last January, and I'm proud to say that we hit it off at once. Even though we didn't agree on every issue, LARKIN was my kind of guy—a tough, no-nonsense law and order practitioner. You never had to wonder about where LARKIN stood on an issue because he always told you face to face. He had the courage to stand up for what he believed in and he never compromised his integrity. LARKIN had all the qualities of greatness in a Federal legislator. There's no question in my mind but that he had a brilliant career ahead of him in Congress.

Underneath the tough demeanor, however, LARKIN had a great sense of humor. I kidded him constantly about his love of street sweepers, which is a type of semiautomatic weapon, and he always enjoyed the joke. He was that rare kind of individual who knew when to take things seriously and when to have a little fun.

Just last week the Crime Subcommittee held its first hearing on President Bush's new antidrug strategy. It saddened me greatly to look down the aisle and see an empty seat at LARKIN's desk, for there was no one in the Congress who wanted to be there more than LARKIN.

LARKIN's goal in Congress was to have a hand in developing a national strategy to fight drugs: a strategy that would cut through the rhetoric, the turf battles, the politics, the bureaucratic infighting and simply get the job done. We're going to do that this year, and I regret very much that LARKIN won't be here to see his dream realized.

LARKIN SMITH was a great friend, a devoted husband and father, and a strong believer in God. I'm grateful that I had the opportunity to work with LARKIN and to get to know him. Like so many other people who knew and admired LARKIN, I'm going to miss him very much. Thank you.

Mr. SUNDQUIST. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to mark the passing of one who had too little time among us. LARKIN SMITH came to Washington excited about being in Congress, about being in a position to do good for his friends and neighbors back home. You could see the enthusiasm he brought to the task. You could feel the honest conviction he brought to the issues he took on, like the fight against drugs.

Many of us regarded LARKIN as a man well on his way to a productive, even distinguished career in the Congress. It is our loss, and the country's loss, that he died in the prime of his life. Let it be said, however, that he served honorably in this House and kept faith with the people who sent him to Washington.

My condolences to the Smith family and to the many who called LARKIN a friend. I know this House is a bit better for LARKIN's service and that we are diminished by his passing.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I have long had a special interest in the district represented so ably by LARKIN SMITH. When I was first assigned to the Rules Committee back in 1965, that district was represented by Bill Colmer of Mississippi. When he retired as chairman of the Rules Committee in 1972, that seat was taken by Trent Lott who became a member of the Rules Committee a few years later. After he decided to run for the Senate, Trent used to keep those of us who served with him on the Rules Committee posted as to how the campaign of his prospective successor, LARKIN SMITH, was coming along. So, Mr. Speaker, I had a special interest in him before he was even elected to Congress.

In the short time he was here LARKIN got off to a strong start. He was the only nonlawyer serving on the Judiciary Committee.

As a former sheriff, he had front-line exposure in fighting the war on drugs and he was putting that experience to good use in Congress. He spoke out frequently on the need for additional steps to deal with the problem of drug abuse in this country.

In his last day in the House, LARKIN made a 1-minute speech stressing his concern about the ability of our current House committee structure to deal with the drug problem. He noted that "80 committees, subcommittees, select committees * * * have jurisdiction over our national drug strategy * * *." He concluded as follows:

"I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle today to join me in supporting bills in the House and the Senate to put the drug war jurisdiction under one single committee."

Mr. Speaker, LARKIN SMITH was right in expressing concern about the ability of our committee structure to meet the challenge posed by drug abuse. We should pursue our fight against drugs with renewed zeal, in his memory.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in extending sympathy to LARKIN's wife, Sheila. His untimely death was a terrible loss to his family, his district and our Nation.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, today we are paying tribute to our colleague and friend Congressman LARKIN I. SMITH, who tragically died in a freak plane accident exactly 1 month ago today. I had a personal fondness of LARKIN, not only because he was a fellow southerner with a background in city government like myself, but because he chose to sit on the Select Committee on Children, Youth and the Family during his first term in Congress.

Many have called LARKIN SMITH a rising star in the freshman class. It is unfortunate that he had only 7½ short months to show his leadership abilities as a Member of Congress. During that brief period he showed us his great potential.

A former sheriff from Gulfport, SMITH understood that to beat the country's drug problem we have to be tough on criminals. He had already offered the benefit of his experience in law enforcement to his colleagues, working with his fellow members on the Judiciary Committee to formulate a bill that would once and for all stop the national scourge of drugs. Congress will feel a definite loss as we strive to pass a new drug policy, for LARKIN would have played an important role in those negotiations.

More than anything else, I admired LARKIN's zest for life. He had gusto and wasn't afraid to show it. It showed in the seriousness with which he approached his job as a Congressman. It showed in the way he loved his country. It showed in his belief in justice. And it showed in the way he loved his family, his country and his God.

Mr. LOWERY of California. Mr. Speaker, former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill wrote of being a freshman Congressman in his book, "Man of the House."

In these days, new Members, like children, were expected to be seen and not heard. Our job was simple and basic:

learn the ropes, follow the party line, and pay attention to what's going on around you.

Many have adhered to those strictures over the years. But LARKIN SMITH was not one of them. He arrived in Congress 8 months ago with a burden of commitment on his shoulders that would not allow him to keep silent. He was a foot soldier in the drug war and he came to Congress armed with an eloquence that brought that war into the Chamber. We listened and we learned. And we only wish he could have continued.

But perhaps that is the challenge he leaves: for the Congress to see beyond legislation to the people it affects—to see the drug tragedy through the eyes of a man who spent 23 years in law enforcement. LARKIN knew from the firsthand experience the scourge of drugs on the lives of everyone touched by them. He saw the devastation to families, the cost of lives and careers, and the grip of crime on the addict—all because of drugs.

LARKIN SMITH could not keep silent, and neither should we.

Mr. Speaker, I counted LARKIN as a friend and looked to him as a leader on the issue of the drug war. Katie and I express our regard and our deep sympathy to his wife Sheila, their family and to all his supporters and friends.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute our late colleague, Congressman LARKIN SMITH.

His death on August 13 was a great tragedy. It was a tragedy for his family and everyone who loved him, and the unfulfilled promise he leaves behind is a tragedy for this House and this Nation.

LARKIN SMITH was a law enforcement officer for 20 years. During his career he served as the chief of police of Gulfport, MS, and was most recently sheriff of Harrison County.

He built his reputation as a tough and creative leader. He helped clean up a scandal-plagued sheriff's office and served on the White House Conference for a Drug-Free America.

LARKIN SMITH came to Washington just in time to help America with her fight against crime and illegal drugs. This House was expecting to rely on his firsthand law enforcement experience to guide us in shaping national antidrug policy.

He provided a great service to the House by pointing out the great number of committees and subcommittees that maintained competing jurisdictions over antidrug policy. He

wanted to streamline the process so that we could move faster in our efforts to combat illegal drugs.

LARKIN SMITH challenged this Congress. He challenged us to work harder against the violence and drug abuse that affects every community in this country.

Mr. Speaker, we must accept that challenge.

I want to extend the sympathy of this House to Congressman SMITH's wife, Sheila, and their family, and say to them that LARKIN SMITH made a difference.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of our distinguished fallen colleagues, Congressman LARKIN SMITH of the Fifth District of Mississippi. Though only a Member of the House for a brief 8 months, LARKIN had made an impression on his colleagues that will last far beyond his House tenure.

As a senior figure in the Mississippi law enforcement community, LARKIN SMITH brought with him extensive expertise and a fresh perspective that will be sorely missed in the Congress. As the Harrison County sheriff for 5 years from 1984–89, LARKIN was heralded for his efforts in spearheading the creation of the Blue Lightning Strike Force, a multijurisdictional task force established to interdict illegal narcotics coming across the borders of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. LARKIN's accomplishment is evidence of his creative thinking, and it was this potential which was recognized when LARKIN was bestowed the honor of being the only nonlawyer appointed to serve on the House Judiciary Committee. He also served on the National Advisory Committee on Law Enforcement.

Tragically, LARKIN's potential was never afforded the time necessary to blossom into full fruition, yet it is evident that LARKIN has left a lasting legacy for the House of Representatives, for the State of Mississippi, and for our Nation. To LARKIN's wife, Sheila, his daughter, Tracy, and his grandson, Bryce, our hearts go out during this difficult period. We wish them the comfort of knowing that LARKIN was highly regarded by his colleagues as a good man, a great legislator, and an outstanding citizen.

Mr. BUECHNER. Mr. Speaker, there are many soldiers who do not wear uniforms, there are many battles which are not fought on battlefields, and there are many losses in these wars which are not recorded casualties. Today we mourn a man whose crusade sought to liberate America from the shadow of drugs. LARKIN SMITH, of Mississippi devoted him-

self to protecting America from crime, and that fight took him from a patrol car to the U.S. House of Representatives. Although his death was not on the front lines, his commitment should undoubtedly mark him as one of the heroes in this fight.

The tragedy of LARKIN's death is in no way lessened by the fact that he was new to Congress, for there are many Members of this body who missed the opportunity to get to know him. LARKIN was not a lawyer, nor a career civil servant; he had no desire to serve political purposes. Rather, LARKIN was a county sheriff who had grown weary of seeing our Nation stumble in the face of a mounting drug problem, and took what he perceived as the best possible course of action to fight it.

A longtime veteran of the real war on drugs, LARKIN came to Washington and was immediately a strong voice in the legislative theater of this war. His attempts to bring light to the scope and gravity of the drug problem were not limited to his district, as he tried to rally national support for this undeclared war. As our Government finally moves this problem to the forefront of the national agenda, I believe that somewhere LARKIN is heartened by the fact that he played an important role.

Perhaps as we mourn the loss of our colleague from Mississippi, we can once again be reminded of the principles for which he stood, not only for a drug-free America, but the traditional values that have shaped our society. Regardless of politics, we cannot help but admire his constant fight for a better America, and these principles will undoubtedly survive him.

Mr. Speaker, as this assembly honors LARKIN, I would simply state that he was a man with the courage to fight for his convictions, and though he is no longer among us, he may rest assured that we will continue his fight. LARKIN SMITH was a good man, he was my colleague, and he will be missed.

Mr. DOUGLAS. Mr. Speaker, Harry Truman said once that: "If you want a friend in Washington, DC, buy a dog."

Mr. Speaker, I do not have a dog, but I have LARKIN SMITH, and that is the real friend that I have and had here in this city.

As my colleagues know, it is a month since his death. This is the 13th, and he died on August 13. I felt a special affinity to LARKIN because we served together on both of our com-

mittees, both on the Committee on Government Operations as well as the Committee on the Judiciary, and we sat next to each other in those two committees.

I know the printed word will never pick it up in the manner in which he used to say it, but I always enjoyed my mornings when the sheriff would turn to me and say: "Judge, how are you doing today?"

Mr. Speaker, he always clapped me on the back with a tremendous hand, and I of course then had to banter with him as the sheriff, and that was pretty much a ritual we had every day either on the Committee on the Judiciary or the Committee on Government Operations. LARKIN and I had both been involved in the court system, but in different roles; he as sheriff, me as a judge, and we respected and understood each other. We also respected and understood the different roles that are required of a judge and of a sheriff.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, with all the lawyers we have got on the Committee on the Judiciary, we are going to miss that sheriff and his input especially as we begin looking into the President's crime and drug initiatives.

I really wish we had LARKIN with us, and all I can say, LARKIN, is I hope we can keep that in mind as we go through our deliberations. It was LARKIN, as my colleagues know, and most of the speakers here have alluded to it, who led the fight to consolidate the war on drugs so that we could actually have a war on drugs rather than a skirmish.

I would like to place into the Record immediately following my remarks what appeared in the Record on August 3. That was the day before we adjourned in August, and it was a special order, or rather it was a 1-minute that LARKIN and I were doing on the drug war. I know that just 1 day before we finished in August we were still talking about that very subject, and the freshman intends to keep this up because LARKIN's legacy, at least one of them that we all know, is his concern that frankly we not have 80 different committees and subcommittees picking around trying to fight a war. We need one committee to do it.

However, Mr. Speaker, most of all I will just miss his friendship, his good humor. All of us in the freshman class will. All of us who are Members of this body will miss LARKIN, and I know the people of Mississippi will also miss him. He is someone who I am very confident would have gone on to serve in the other body at some point and would have always provided great inspiration. He will not be here to do that, but we who remain will provide, I hope, some of

the leadership, some of the inspiration, from our colleague, LARKIN SMITH.

The remarks mentioned follow:

[From the Congressional Record, August 3, 1989]

CONGRESS MUST TRULY FIGHT THE DRUG WAR

Mr. DOUGLAS. Mr. Speaker, for 28 days, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. SMITH] has been rising and will rise to point out that this House has not yet entered the drug war. In fact, we are not even fighting a good skirmish yet.

We have 28 standing committees and 46 subcommittees spread over this so-called drug war. I just wanted to praise the gentleman from Mississippi for pointing out that by the time we get back here in September and Mr. Bennett gives us his action plan for that drug war, it is going to be fanned out over so many committees nothing is going to be done.

If World War II had been fought that way, one committee would deal with helmets, one committee would do tanks, one would do jeeps, another would do uniforms, and we would probably still be fighting World War II.

I think it is obvious that we need one committee, as the gentleman from Mississippi has pointed out. He is one of the few Members who has actually had to fight the drug war when he served as sheriff, and I think we ought to listen to him, and we ought to act, and we ought to make this House streamlined so that we can enter the drug war rather than pretend we are fighting the drug war.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply touched, as were all Members of the Congress, on account of the tragic death of our colleague, Representative LARKIN SMITH. Although he had only a short time in Congress, he demonstrated real leadership here and we are all going to miss him as will his constituency and the country.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family. We know his loss is very personal to them; and it is also very personal to each Member of Congress since we know of his fine service and comradeship here in our daily work in Congress. I particularly enjoyed visiting with him each Thursday morning in the House Prayer Breakfasts.

Mr. BEVILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late LARKIN SMITH, who died so tragically during the August congressional recess.

LARKIN was an outstanding person and a bright addition to the U.S. House of Representatives.

I was most impressed with LARKIN from the occasions I had to talk with him. He was sincere, knowledgeable, and concerned for the welfare of his constituents he so ably represented.

Although he was a new Member of Congress, LARKIN exerted his leadership in the field of law enforcement.

The Congress has lost a rising star. We will miss LARKIN and we will not forget his contributions to our Nation.

Mr. MAZZOLI. Mr. Speaker, the accidental deaths of two of our colleagues during the August recess has cast a sobering pall over the House Chamber.

First, came the death of Representative Mickey Leland of Texas, and then, in the same week, came the death of Representative LARKIN SMITH of Mississippi. These tragic losses—both by plane crashes—remind us vividly of the fragility of life and the sacrifices which may accompany one's devotion to public service.

Although LARKIN SMITH's tenure in the House was brief, the time he served with us showed great promise and an eagerness to conquer the complex as well as the more mundane aspects of his new responsibilities as a Member of the House of Representatives. He had "taken the bit" and was well on his way to establishing a solid career in the House.

I had the privilege of serving with LARKIN on the Judiciary Committee's Crime Subcommittee, where a good deal of our time and energy has been devoted lately to legislation fighting the epidemic of illegal drugs across our Nation. LARKIN SMITH has been a valuable asset through this process.

His extensive background in law enforcement and practical, hands-on knowledge brought unique insight to the subcommittee's deliberations. Undoubtedly, he would have continued to aggressively make important contributions serving on the Crime Subcommittee and the full Committee.

The qualities which endeared him to his constituents and earned him wide respect in his native Mississippi were much in evidence here in Washington. And, I am confident that if allowed the opportunity, LARKIN would have built upon a record of achievement in the House which would have received only greater respect and pride at home. I hope that the "can-do" spirit which LARKIN SMITH brought to his responsibilities as Member of the House will continue to flourish here.

At this time of great sadness, I know that I join with all Members of the House in expressing our deepest sympathies to LARKIN's family and friends.

THURSDAY, *September 14, 1989.*

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives recently lost two of its finest Members in airplane disasters. LARKIN SMITH of Mississippi was a member of our freshman class. Like my father, he was a former sheriff who was dedicated to improving the criminal justice system. He had a special interest in the war against illegal drugs, and we will certainly miss his sensitivity and expertise as we continue to address our No. 1 domestic problem.

Mickey Leland of Texas was my dear friend. When I traveled with him to Ethiopia and Sudan earlier this year, I saw first-hand the depth of his commitment to eradicate the scourge of hunger from the face of the Earth and he was making significant progress!

As a result of the agreements he reached on that April trip, he is directly responsible for saving tens of thousands of lives in southern Sudan. Mickey, we love you and we miss you. The best way we can demonstrate that, is to carry on with your good work—and that we shall do.

WEDNESDAY, *November 8, 1989.*

Mr. MACHTLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to our late colleague, LARKIN SMITH. LARKIN was tireless in his efforts to combat the problem of drugs in America and he recognized the difficulty in getting through the congressional maze of committees and subcommittees which deal with this issue currently in our Congress.

LARKIN SMITH was a sheriff before he became a Congressman. Every day he came into this town he spoke on the issue of drugs in America.

In Rhode Island I have had an advisory committee work with me to understand the problem of drugs, and I am convinced after meeting with these people that we must have a comprehensive solution which has one voice.

Recognizing this, I would urge my colleagues to support the resolution of the gentleman from New York [Mr. Paxon], House Resolution 216, which would amend the rules of the House to establish a Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. This committee would have exclusive jurisdiction over all Federal drug laws, replacing the congressional maze which currently exists today.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues in Congress to address the drug problem with one voice, to avoid turf disputes and to support this resolution.

Proceedings in the Senate

WEDNESDAY, *September 6, 1989.*

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, my State suffered a great loss during the August recess when LARKIN SMITH, who represented the Fifth District of Mississippi in the House of Representatives, was killed in a plane crash. He had been elected last November and he was already making a very fine impression on everyone who observed him at work in the other body. His background and experience in law enforcement gave him unusual insight into many of the issues that came before the House Judiciary Committee, on which he served. It is really unusual for a Member of Congress to establish himself as an influential legislator in his first term; the seniority system can operate against you if you try to do too much too soon. But LARKIN SMITH was an exception to this rule. He spoke out when he felt there were better ways of dealing with criminals such as drug dealers and drug smugglers. He had good ideas. The Nation will miss having the benefit of his experience and judgment on these important matters of concern.

LARKIN SMITH was also a very fine human being. He was a pleasure to be with and to work with in solving problems that faced our State. I do not know of anyone who could have worked harder and more effectively. He gave the job of U.S. Congressman everything he had. As a matter of fact, he gave his life. We miss him very much and our sympathies are extended to his wife Sheila and all his family during this very difficult time in their lives.

WEDNESDAY, *September 13, 1989.*

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. President, on behalf the distinguished Senators from Mississippi, Senators Cochran and Lott, the Republican leader, Senator Dole, and myself, I send

a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The resolution will be stated by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 177) relative to the death of Representative LARKIN I. SMITH, of Mississippi.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 177) was agreed to, as follows:

SENATE RESOLUTION 177

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of the Honorable LARKIN I. SMITH, late a Representative from the State of Mississippi.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate recesses today, it recess as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative.

Mr. MITCHELL. I move to reconsider the vote by which the resolution was agreed to.

I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. President, if the distinguished acting Republican leader has no further business and if no other Senator is seeking recognition, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess, pursuant to Senate Resolutions 176 and 177, in memory of Congressmen Leland and SMITH, until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, September 14.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8 p.m., recessed until Thursday, September 14, 1989, at 9:30 a.m.

Newspaper Tributes

[New York Times, August 15, 1989]

REPRESENTATIVE LARKIN SMITH, 45, DIES IN MISSISSIPPI PLANE CRASH

(By Ronald Smothers)

Representative LARKIN SMITH, a freshman congressman from Mississippi, was killed Sunday night in the crash of a small plane in the southern part of the state.

Officials said the single-engine plane crashed between 9:30 P.M. and 10 P.M., shortly after taking off from Hattiesburg on route to his home in Gulfport about 100 miles away. A spokesman for Mr. SMITH's office said the weather was clear.

The bodies of Mr. SMITH and the pilot, Chuck Vierling, were recovered this morning and identified with the help of a forensic dentist, police investigators said.

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board and several law-enforcement agencies combed the crash site today in a search for clues to the crash.

A FORMER SHERIFF

Mr. SMITH, a 45-year-old Republican, was elected to Congress last November after a hard-fought Republican primary and a close general election campaign. He won the Fifth Congressional seat vacated by Trent Lott, the popular politician who built the relatively prosperous and urbanized Gulf Coast into a Republican stronghold in the state before winning a Senate seat last fall.

Mr. SMITH had built his reputation in law enforcement and had served from 1963 to 1988 as sheriff of Harrison County on the Gulf Coast. In that time he had helped create a five-state drug fighting force, the Blue Lightning Strike Force.

After joining Congress Mr. SMITH served on the House Judiciary Committee and the Government Operations Committee's task force on crime and defense.

Under Mississippi law a special election must be held within 100 days to fill the vacant Congressional seat.

SOUND OF PLANE ENGINE

Mr. SMITH had traveled to Hattiesburg on Sunday to participate in the opening ceremonies of the Dixie Youth World Series, a youth baseball contest, and was returning home when the crash occurred.

Sheriff Carlos Herring of Perry County said people living in the area of the crash reported hearing a plane engine and snapping trees at about 10 P.M. A ground and air search was organized Sunday night, but was suspended briefly before sunrise because of fog.

Officials located the wreck of the red, white and gray Cessna aircraft about 8 A.M. today.

The plane crashed in a dense stand of pines in the DeSoto National Forest about 35 miles southeast of Hattiesburg. The left wing of the plane was apparently sheered off as it came down. Pieces of the plane were strewn about a clearing and some twisted metal still hung in the tree tops.

Charles Cochran, owner of the nearby Ponderosa Hunting Lodge, said the area is fairly inaccessible, and searches had to bulldoze their way to the wreckage.

The search parties were from the Sheriff's Department here, the blue Lightning Strike Force, the Harrison County Sheriff's Office and the nearby Keesler Air Force Base and the United States Army's Camp Shelby.

Since going to Congress in January, Mr. SMITH had worked hard to keep open defense installations in the area, local residents said.

Sheila Mitchell of New Augusta, whose husband is a foreman at the Army's Mason-Chamberlain weapons plant in Bay St. Louis, Miss., said: "There are always threats to close it, but this time it really looked serious and there are 1,700 people working there. He just got up there in January but he was working hard to keep it open."

[New York Times, August 15, 1989]

SPECIALIST ON DRUG PROBLEM

(By E.J. Dionne, Jr.)

Representative SMITH spent most of his life in law enforcement and emerged in his first seven months in Congress as a specialist on the drug problem.

Mr. SMITH began his first term in the House in January. He was the sort of affable young Southerner on whom the Republicans were building their hopes to become the dominant party in the South, not only in Presidential election, but also in Congress and at the State and local levels.

"LARKIN, in his short tenure, made many new friends," said Representative Robert H. Michel of Illinois, the House Republican leader. "He had a genuine nature and an honest, open approach to his role and his colleagues."

John Buckley, the communications director of the National Republican Congressional Committee, said Mr. SMITH "threw every stereotype of the Southern sheriff on its head, because he was an extremely gracious and friendly fellow."

IN LAW ENFORCEMENT 23 YEARS

Born on June 26, 1944, in Poplarville, Miss., LARKIN I. SMITH received his bachelor's degree at the age of 34 from William Carey College in Hattiesburg. He began his career in law enforcement in 1966 as a sheriff's deputy in Pearl River County and worked his way through the ranks. He served as police chief in Gulfport, Miss., from August 1977 to December 1983 before becoming sheriff of Harrison County.

As sheriff, Mr. SMITH was particularly concerned with the drug issue, and headed a committee of Federal, state and local officials coordinating efforts to seize drugs in the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. SMITH combined what Republicans strategists are seeking in their Southern candidates—a conservative political philosophy and the image of a young reformer. He defeated the incumbent sheriff in a voter revolt against scandals that surrounded the Harrison County sheriff's office. "He restored credibility to the Harrison County Sheriff's Department," said Senator Lott, Mississippi's junior Republican Senator, "and used creative thinking to modernize it."

RELATIVELY SAFE SEAT

It was Mr. Lott's decision to run for the Senate that opened up the Fifth Congressional district seat for Mr. SMITH, and he won easily.

With a relatively safe seat, Mr. SMITH could look forward to a long Congressional career, and he secured seats on both the Judiciary Committee and the Government Operations Committee. Mr. SMITH was the only member of the House Judiciary Committee who was not a lawyer.

In his brief time in Congress, Mr. SMITH took a particular interest in the issue that had preoccupied him in law enforcement, the war on drugs. Mr. Lott noted that Mr. SMITH had already begun to fight against the dispersion of authority on the drug issue among 60 House Committees and subcommittees.

Mr. SMITH was a firm opponent of gun control.

Representative G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, a Mississippi Democrat who had joined Mr. SMITH at the opening ceremonies of the baseball series in Hattiesburg on Sunday, said: "He was so happy and enjoying being a member of Congress. He was doing a super job as a member. He had emerged as one of the real leaders in the freshman class of the 101st Congress."

"Our last conversation at the series was talking about the loss of Congressman Leland," Mr. Montgomery told The Associated Press, "and I told LARKIN that he should be careful in traveling and performing his duties."

Mr. SMITH is survived by his wife, Sheila, a daughter, Tracy, and a grandson, Bryce.

[Washington Post, August 15, 1989]

PLANE CRASH KILLS SECOND CONGRESSMAN

(By Helen Dewar and Amy Stevens)

Representative LARKIN I. SMITH (R-Miss.), a former sheriff who had served only seven months in Congress, was killed in the crash of a small plane near New Augusta, Miss., late Sunday in the second air disaster to claim the life of a member of the U.S. House in less than one week.

The death of the 45-year-old Mississippian and his pilot came the same day the wreckage of another small plane carrying Representative Mickey Leland (D-Tex.) and 15 others was found by U.S. search teams in the ravine of a mountainside in Ethiopia, where Leland was visiting refugee camps.

Already in mourning for Leland, stunned colleagues of the two lawmakers recalled SMITH as a promising newcomer who was already making a mark in the House as an aggressive advocate of stronger anti-crime and anti-drug efforts.

"Absorbing the recent deaths of Representatives Leland and SMITH is not easy for any of us, but both of these most able and committed legislators

remind us that a life committed to public service can sometimes exact a terrible price," said House Speaker Thomas S. Foley (D-Wash.).

He said that to his knowledge, never before had Congress lost two of its members in accidental deaths in so short a time.

SMITH was returning to Gulfport from Hattiesburg, where he tossed out the first ball at a Little League tournament, when the Cessna 177 single-engine plane carrying him and the pilot Chuck Vierling vanished from radar screens at 9:25 p.m., about 30 minutes after takeoff.

Searchers began combing the area when a resident reported hearing what he thought was a plane crash. But the wreckage was not found until early yesterday when a U.S. Customs Service plane spotted it in a heavily wooded area of the DeSoto National Forest about 15 miles southeast of New Augusta. Rescuers had to bulldoze their way into the woods to recover the bodies, which had been thrown from the wreckage, officials said.

"The plane was all to pieces," the Associated Press quoted Perry County Deputy Sheriff Gene McRee as saying. It appeared to have plowed into a tree and "there was no way anyone could have survived," he added. Others said it was shattered except for part of the tail section.

Michael West, deputy medical examiner for nearby Forrest County, said the plane's engine appeared to have been dead when the crash occurred. He said there was no fire. Officials said skies were clear in the area Sunday night, although there was one report of a high haze that could have caused visual difficulties for pilots.

The cause of the crash was still under investigation late yesterday.

In Mississippi, Governor Ray Mabus ordered state flags to be lowered to half-staff, mourning SMITH as one who had "dedicated his life to public service." In Washington, where flags were already at half-staff for Leland, the White House issued a statement expressing sorrow of President and Mrs. Bush at SMITH's death.

The Poplarville, Miss., native was a law enforcement officer for 20 years. He was chief of police of Gulfport from 1977 to 1983 and sheriff of Harrison County from 1984 to 1988, where he won credit for cleaning up an office tarred by the scandals of his predecessor.

Winning his congressional race with relative ease, SMITH succeeded Republican Trent Lott, who vacated the seat to run successfully for the U.S. Senate.

SMITH ran on a strong law-and-order platform that formed the basis for his agenda as a freshman lawmaker

SMITH, the only non-lawyer on the House Judiciary Committee, also served on the Government Operations Committee and cosponsored legislation to strengthen federal drug law enforcement. He criticized U.S. drug czar William J. Bennett for supporting a ban on importation of military-style semi-automatic assault weapons.

He was also critical of House handling of anti-drug legislation. In a series of one-minute speeches he had begun giving on the House floor—called "Through the Drug War Maze in 28 Days"—SMITH called for consolidation of the 28 House committees and subcommittees he said shared jurisdiction over the drug problem.

In Mississippi, friends and political colleagues described him as having a "Mr. SMITH goes to Washington" kind of approach to his new job: hardworking, open, friendly and happy. "Larkin was aggressive," said Lott. "He was a doer. When the people he served needed something done, he did his best to get it done." He had creative ideas about law enforcement and he

"shared some of those ideas with fellow congressmen, whether they wanted to hear it or not," Lott added.

SMITH had emerged as "one of the real leaders in the freshman class of the 101st Congress," said Representative G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery (D-Miss.). Montgomery was with SMITH at the baseball tournament Sunday afternoon and recalls talking with SMITH about Leland's death. "I told LARKIN that he should be careful in traveling," Montgomery recalled.

Six other members of the House have died in plane crashes since 1972, when then-Majority Leader Hale Boggs (D-La.) and Representative Nick Begich (D-Alaska) were killed in Alaska, according to a compilation by AP. Representative George W. Collins (D-Ill.) died in a commercial airline crash later in 1972; Representatives Jerry Pettis (R-Calif.) and Jerry Litton (D-Mo.) died in private plane crashes; and Representative Larry McDonald (D-Ga.) was on the Korean Airlines jet shot down by the Soviets in 1983.

The deaths of Leland and SMITH make five vacancies in the 435-member House. Earlier vacancies were created by the resignations of Speaker Jim Wright (D-Tex.) and Majority Whip Tony Coelho (D-Calif.) and by the death of Representative Claude Pepper (D-Fla.). Special elections have been called to fill those vacancies; no dates have yet been set to fill Leland's and SMITH's seats.

[Roll Call, September 4–10, 1989]

LARKIN SMITH

LARKIN SMITH served only seven months in Congress, but, right from the start, it was clear he was marked for prominence in the institution. He won an appointment to the House Judiciary Committee as a freshman and was the only non-lawyer to serve on the panel. SMITH came to Congress through law enforcement, starting as a sheriff's deputy in Pearl River County, Miss., and working his way up to police chief of Gulfport and then sheriff of Harrison County.

As sheriff, he helped create a five-state anti-drug corps called the Blue Lightning Strike Force that won a good deal of success. Last November, he was elected to replace Trent Lott (R-Miss), who resigned to run successfully for Senate. He immediately began concentrating on the subject he knew best—the war on drugs. SMITH couldn't understand why more than 80 committees and subcommittees had jurisdiction over drug-related issues in Congress, and he boldly took to the floor to challenge a system that he felt hurt the effort to fight the scourge. (Roll Call, Aug. 10)

On Sunday, Aug. 13, the day the wreckage of Representative Mickey Leland's (D-Texas) plane was found in Ethiopia, SMITH traveled to Hattiesburg to attend the opening ceremonies of the Dixie Youth World Series, a baseball championship. SMITH believed that activities such as youth baseball were vital in the war on drugs. That evening, he boarded a red, white, and gray single-engine Cessna for the flight back home to Gulfport. The plane crashed shortly after takeoff, and LARKIN SMITH and the pilot, the only two persons aboard, were killed.

SMITH, who was 45 when he died, also leaves a young and loving family: his wife, Sheila; their 21-year-old daughter, Tracy; and an infant grandson. In his short time on the Hill, the Congressman gained the friendship and

admiration of his colleagues. Like so many of the best of the nation, he died too young, leaving it up to the rest of us to fulfill his promise.

[Roll Call, September 4-10, 1989]

Freshman Larkin Smith Killed in Crash

(By Karen Foerstel)

Just as reports of the death of Representative Mickey Leland (D-Texas) were reaching the Hill and the world, news of another tragedy arrived. Freshman Representative Larkin Smith (R-Miss) had been killed in the crash of a single-engine plane in Mississippi.

Smith was just 15 minutes into his flight from Hattiesburg back to his home in Gulfport on the evening of Aug. 13 when the Cessna in which he was flying dropped off the radar screens.

The next morning, the plane was found in the dense DeSoto National Forest. Smith and the pilot, Charles Vierling, 56—the only two persons aboard—were killed on impact.

Smith had been visiting Hattiesburg to throw out the first ball at the opening ceremonies of the Dixie Youth League World Series. He was 45 and had served in Congress for only seven months.

An investigation of the crash is currently being conducted by the National Transportation Safety Board.

While the probe is due to be completed for another three months, board investigator Jeff Kennedy said that mechanical failure and engine trouble have been ruled out.

A Smith aide speculated the pilot error could have been a factor. Vierling had been flying for 25 years, the aide said, but he had accumulated only about 750 hours of flying time.

Like most freshmen, Smith had not yet gained high visibility in Congress, but many Hill insiders said they saw a bright Congressional future for the former Harrison County sheriff.

"People did have high expectations for him. He came to Congress and immediately won the respect of Republicans and Democrats alike," said John Buckley, spokesman for the National Republican Congressional Committee. "People believed he would become a hard-working, very decent Member of Congress * * *. they thought of him as a rising star."

During his seven months in Congress, Smith sat on the Government Operations Committee and was the only non-lawyer member of the Judiciary Committee.

He was elected to the House last November after a hard-fought Republican primary and a close general election. He won the 5th district seat vacated by now-Sen. Trent Lott (R).

Almost immediately after coming to Congress, Smith made the country's drug problem his number-one focus.

As sheriff, Smith headed a committee of federal, state, and local officials coordinating efforts to seize drugs on the Gulf of Mexico. He also helped create a five-state drug-fighting corps, the Blue Lightning Strike Force.

On July 18, Smith began a two-month walkthrough of what he called "the maze of Congressional panels that makes the war on drugs a disorganized and fragmented effort." (See Roll Call, Aug. 10, 1989)

By giving a series of one-minutes on the House floor for 28 consecutive session days—each speech naming a standing Congressional panel with jurisdiction over solving the nation's drug problems—SMITH had hoped to unify and improve Congress's fight against drugs.

Sources say that freshman Representative Bill Paxon (R-NY) and other Republicans may now pick up the series of one-minutes where SMITH left off.

SMITH is survived by his wife, Sheila; a daughter, Tracy; and a grandson, Bryce.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday at 6 p.m. at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 2nd and C Streets, SE.

[Roll Call, September 18–24, 1989]

COLLEAGUES CONTINUE LATE REPRESENTATIVE SMITH'S ONE-MINUTES

(By Karen Foerstel)

Freshman Republicans last Tuesday picked up where the late Representative LARKIN SMITH (R-Miss) left off, continuing a series of 28 consectutive one-minutes in an effort to unify what SMITH once called the "disorganized and fragmented" Congressional war on drugs.

SMITH started a series of speeches on the House floor on July 28—each one-minute describing some of the more than 80 committees and subcommittees which have jurisdiction over drug issues.

The freshman Congressman's death in a plane crash on Aug. 13 cut short the series.

Representative Peter Smith (R-Vt) gave the first of the 14 remaining speeches on Tuesday, Representative Steve Schiff (R-NM) presented the second on Wednesday, and Representative Mel Hancock (R-Mo) the third on Thursday.

The speeches resume this week with Representative Chuck Douglas (R-NH) scheduled for tommorrow, Representative Craig James (R-Fla) on Wednesday, and Representative Porter Goss (R-Fla) on Thursday.

"A few weeks before he died, our friend and colleague LARKIN SMITH began his campaign for a leaner, more effective Congress to tackle the drug crisis," Peter Smith said on the floor Tuesday. "Long after the daily killings have made this country cry out for a real answer, we still have nearly as many policy-making centers in this Congress as we have committees."

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